



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT
MANUEL L. QUEZON
1935-1944

BOOK 3 | VOLUME 3
Historical Papers and Documents

ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES

Inaugural Address of President Quezon (Filipino), November 15, 1935

**Talumpati
ng
Marangál at Kagalang-galang na
Panğulo ng Pilipinas
Manuel L. Quezon
sa
Pagpapasinaya ng Pámahalaang Malasarili**

[Idinaos sa Harapán ng Gusali ng Batasáng-Bansa, ika-15 ng Nobyembre, 1935]

MGA KABABAYAN:

Sa paggamit ng inyong karapatáng kaloob ng Saligáng-Batás, inihalál ninyo akong Panğulo ng Malasariling Pámahalaan. Pinasasalámatan ko nang taós sa kaibuturan ng pusó ang bagong katunayang itó ng inyong pagtitiwalá sa akin, at sa tulong ng Maykapál ay dí ko pabábayaang mabigó ang inyong pag-asa.

Ang kahalagahan ng nangyayaring itóng tinatanghal natin ngayón ay mahigít kaysa ibig-sabihin ng hámak na pagtanggap ng tungkol ng halál ninyong Punong Tagapagpaganáp. Ibinubunsod natin ang daóng ng isáng bagong bansa. Pinasisinayaan natin ang kanyang pámahalaan. Nákikita na natin ang matimyas na bunğa ng ating mga katutubong pagpupunyagi sa paglayá.

Nasásaksihán natin ang pagwawakás sa isáng káranğal-danğalang gáwaing kailanma’y dí pa náisipang gawin ng alinmang bansa sa nasásakupang ibáng bayan. At ang kadakilaan ng pagkatupád ng gawaing itó ay pinatútunayan ng walang pagkasyaháng lugod at pasasalámat na ngayóng mga oras na itó’y ipinahahatíd sa Amérika ng labing-apat na angaw na tao. Sa di-kawasa’y natupád din ang magandang pag-asa ni Presidente McKinley—ang paglingón sa likód ng mga Pilipino upáng ipagpasalámat yaóng araw na hinirang ng Tadhanang ikálagáy ng kaniláng tinubuang-lupá sa mapagpalang pámamatnubay ng bayan ng Estados Unidos.

Hindi nga alangáng daluhán ng matataas na pinunó ng Pámahalaang Amérikano ang ating mga pagdiriwang ngayón. Ikinalulugód at pinasasalámatan natin ang dito’y kaniláng pakikirayáma sa atin. Sa udyok ng walang-kupas na pagmámalasákit sa ikalalayá nati’t ikaliligaya, ay sadyang sinugó sa atin ng Panğulo ng Estados Unidos, Káranğal-danğalang Franklin D. Roosevelt, bilang tunay niyáng kinatawán, ang Kalihim-Digmá, Kgg. na George H. Dern, isáng dakilang amerikanong datihan nang mapagmahál na kaibigan ng bayang Pilipino. Ang Panğalawáng Panğulong Garner, ang Espiker Byrns, mga tanyag na kagawad ng Senadong kinábibilangan ng kanilang plurlider na si Senador Robinson, at mga tanyag ding kagawad ng Mababang Kapulungán, ay para-parang nagsipaglakbay dito, na tumawid ng may sampung libong milyang agwat, upáng makita lámang at masaksihán ang kabanatang itó ng kasaysayan natin. Sa pagkakádaló nilá rito ay inaari kong kaharáp na rin natin ngayón ang buóng Bansang Amérikano at nakikipagdiwang sa atin sa pagkatupád ng marangál na pangako ng Amérikang bibigyan ang bayang Pilipino ng kalayaa’t pagsasarili. Lubós ang aking pag-asa na ang buklod ng kagandahang-loob at pagmamáhalang ikinákakabit ng Pilipinas sa Amérika ay di-malalagót, bagkus lalong magtitibay kung lúbusan nang maputol ang dating kapangyarihan niyá sa atin.

Sa ngalan ng bayang Pilipino, ay ipinahahayag ko rin namán ngayón ang lalong mataós na pag-giliw at pasasalámat sa káhuli-hulihang Gobernador-Heneral natin, Kgg. na Frank Murphy, alang-alang sa makatwiran at tumpak niyáng pag-kakápanğasiwá at gayón din sa di-hahámak na mga pagtulong niyáng ginawá sa atin upáng mapagaan ang lalong mabibigát na gáwaing binalikat natin sa pagtatayó ng mga patakará’t balangkas ng ating bagong Pámahalaan.

At yayámang tayo’y bumubunğad na sa pagka bansang malayá at nagsasarili, ináanyayahan ko kayóng manahimik muna tayong sandali, at dili-dilihin ang kagitingán ng ating mga Rizal at Bonifacio, gayón din ng lahat na mga iba pang bayani nating nangásawi sa paglilingkod at pag-papakasákit sa ikaiutubós ng Ináng-Bayan.

Mga mahál na kababayan: Ang pámahalaang ating pinasísinayaan ngayón ay isáng kasangkapan lámang o paraan sa ikapagtatamo ng isang layon. Kasangkapan itong inilalagáy sa ating mga kamáy upáng tayo na rin ang makapaghandá ng ating sarili sa pagdadala ng mga sagutin ng ganáp na kasarinlan. Kinákailangan ngang ang káhulihang hakbang na itó ay lúbusang mapaghuló sa buó niyang katuturan at mapagkilala rin namán ang malalakíng biyaya't pagkakataóng máidudulot sa atin.

Sa ilalim ng Malasariling Pámahalaan, maaaring ang kabuhayan natin ay di-maging magaan at maginhawa, bagkus laló pang maging mabigat at mahirap. Nguni, pakíkiharapán natin ang bawa't súliraning másasagupá sa dáraanan, gaanumáng panahón at pagsisikap ang kailanganin sa paglutas. Magbabangon tayo ng isáng pámahalaang matuwíd, malinis, mabisá at malakás, upáng sa ganitó'y maging matibay at matatág sa habang panahón ang Repúblikang darating,—isáng pámahalaan, sámakatwíd, na makasasapát di-lámang sa mga kasalukuyang pangangailangan kundi gayón din sa mga kákailanganin sa panahóng hinaharáp. Hindí na natin kailangang maggibá pa ng kasalukuyang balangkas ng mga kapisanang-bayan at ng matitibay na pinagkáugalian upáng magkaroon ng isáng gusaling lalong maganda't matatág. Walá tayong gagawing mga pagahasang pagbabago sa mga kasalukuyang ayos at lagáy, maliban sa mga bagay na totoo na lámang kailangan upáng makasunód sa mga kabaguhang itinatakda ng Saligáng-Batás. Sa katagáng sabi'y magtatayó tayo ng isáng bagong gusalí, hindí sa ibabaw ng mga abó ng kahapon, kundi sa ibabaw ng mga kasangkapa't pátakarang matibay ng kasalukuyan.

Ang pagpipitagan sa batás, ayon sa ipinahahayag na kalooban ng bayan, ay siyang saligáng-lakás ng isáng pámayanan at pámahalaang demokrátiko. Ang pag-aalagá sa kapayapaan at kaayusang-bayan ay kapwá mahigpit na tungkulin ng pámahalaan at ng mámamayan. May lubós akóng pananalig sa kabutihang-loob ng ating bayan at sa kanyang pagka-magalanín sa batás, gayón din sa nátatatág na kapangyarihan. Ang pag-laganap ng mga kagúluhan-bayan at ang mga pagsusuwail sa batás ay maaaring maging sanhi ng pagbagsak ng pámahalaang kostitusyonal at siyang ikapaghimasok ng Amérika. Maging sa panahon man ng pagsasarilí na, kung mapagkitang walá tayong káyang mangalagá ng buhay, kalayaan at ari-arian ng mga kababayan at ng mga dayuhan, ay mapapain tayo sa panganiib na pakialamán din ng mga ibáng bansa. Walá sínumpang makapagmámaang-maangán sa nararapat gawin ng Pámahalaan sa mga taong naninikís sa batás o sa mga kilusán ng panliligalig. Mararahás na parusa ang kasukat ng kaniláng gawa. May mga sapat na hukbong sandatahang nakatalagá sa lahat ng oras upáng mapigil at sugpuin ang alinmang paghihimagsik laban sa kapangyarihan ng Estados Unidos.

Hindí magkakaroon ng pagkásulong kung dí sa lilim ng mayabong na kapayapaan. Kung walang kapayapaan at kaayusang-bayan ay di-maaaring mapaunlad ang pagtuturó ng mga karunungan, di-mapabubuti ang lagáy at lakad ng kabuhayan ng karamihang mámamayan, ni matátangkilik ang dukhá at mangmang laban sa pagsasamantalá, at dí rin mapaninindigán ang tiyák na pananagano ng madlá sa kabuhayan, kalayaan at ari-arian. Hinihiní ko ngá sa bawa't mámamayan ang kanyang matapát na pagtulong sa Pámahalaan, at nang sa ganitó ang katiwasayá'y maghari sa pinakaiibig nating bayan.

Ang ating Saligáng-Batás ay nagtatatág ng húkumang may kalayaan o kapangyarihang sarili sa pámamagitan ng ibinibigáy na kapanatagán at mga pabiyayá sa mga hukóm. Datapwa't ang kalayaan ay di-sukat na siyá lamang maging layunin ng isáng mabuting húkuman. Kailangan din namán, at kaipala'y mahigit kaysa kalayaan, ang matibay na karangalan ng mga hukóm na sukat lámang mátamo sa isáng maingat at matalinong pagpilí sa kanila. Ang pangangasiwa ng katarungan ay dí magkakauring mataas kung mababa ang uri ng kaasalan at kakayahan ng mga taong maghahawak niyan. upáng mapatibay ang katatagan at makapagpairal ng isáng maayos at wastong pámahalaan, ay panata kong sa paglalagáy ng magsisiluklok sa mga nasabing katungkulan, ang pipiliin ko lámang ay mga taong kilala sa kalinisang-asal, sa katibayang-loob, sa kakayahan at talino, upáng ang sinumang humaharap sa mga hukuman ay makapagtiwalang ang mga katwiran niya'y kakalingain, at walang tao sa bayang ito, mula sa kátaas-taasang Punong Tagapagpaganáp hanggan sa lalong mababang mámamayan, na ma-kapaíbabaw sa batás.

Ang kabuhayan natin ngayón ay tumatawíd sa laot na madaluyong at mabagabag ng isá sa mga lalong maselang na panahon ng ating kasaysayan. Dami ng mga walang hanapbuhay at bigát ng kabuhayan ang bumabalisa sa kapanatagán ng mga pámahalaan sa sandaigdig. Matitibay mang saligán ng kabihasnan ng mga bansa't kapisanan ay kasalukuyang nangayayanig. Nasa pangkaraniwang tao lamang ang ikaliligtas ng sangkatauhan sa ganyang kapahamakán. Tungkulin nating patunayan sa kanya na sa lilim ng isáng pámahalaang republikano o sadyang makabayan ay maaari siyang magkaroon ng lahat nang pagkakataón sa pagkita ng ligaya ng kanyang sarili at ng sa kanyang mag-anak. Pagtangkilik sa paggawá, lubhá pa sa mga manggagawang babae at mga batá, tumpak na

pamamalakad sa pagsasámahan ng paggawá at puhunan sa mga págawaan at sa mga pagsasaka, maagap na pagmamalasákit ng pámahalaan sa ikagiginhawa ng buhay ng karamihan ng mga taung-bayan, itó ang mga paraang maka-pagbibigáy ng kapanatagán sa mabuwáy na timbangan ng pamumuhay at pagsasamahán ng mga iba't-ibáng bahaging bumubuo ng sambayanán.

Ang ikinabubuhay ng isáng pámahalaan ay nanggagaling sa nalilikom niyáng mga pananalapi, at dapat na magkátimbangan ang kanyang mga kinikita at ginugugol, katulad ng alinpámang sámahan sa pangangalakal, kung talagáng ibig mabuhay. Tungkulin ko ngang pagsikapang ang Malasariling Pámahalaan nati'y magkasya sa loob lamang ng kanyang kaya, anupá't mapatatág ang kanyang tayó at lakad sa magkatimbang na pasok at labás ng salapi.

Ang lalong malalaking gugulíng kinákaharáp at panánagután natin, kabilang na patí ukol sa ating tanggulang-bansa, ay dapat magbuhat sa mga pa-buwís. Hangga't may ibá tayong mapagkukunan ng maipagtatakíp sa mga ságuting itó, ay íiwasan natin ang pagpapataw ng mga bagong buwís. Subali't sa sandaigdig ay kabilang ang bayan natin sa mga nagbabayad ng lalong mabababang kabuwisan, kayá kung may limulitáw na mga bagong pangangailangan, ay marapat namán sanang lumaan at sumang-ayon tayo sa pagdaragdag ng pabuwís. Ang kalayaan at pagsasarilí ay nababagay lamang sa mga náhahandang magbayad ng halagá nito sa buhay ma't kayámanan.

Upáng makaharáp tayo nang lalong malakás at matatág sa mga bagong ságutin ng Malasariling Pámahalaan, at upáng mapataas pa ang uri ng pamumuhay ng ating bayan, ay kailangan nating magpalaki, hangga't maaari, ng kayamanan ng ating Bansa sa pámamagitan ng mga lalong pag-papasigla sa ikáuunlad ng ating kabuhayan, sa pagpapabuti ng mga pamamaraan sa pagsasaka, sa pagpapaiba-ibá ng mga pananím, sa paglikhá ng mga bagong industriya o hanapbuhay at sa pagpapalakas ng ating mga pangangalakal sa loob at labás. Umaasa akóng ang darating na panayám ukol sa pagkakálakalán ng mga kinatawán ng Estados Unidos at ng Pilipinas ay magbubungra ng lalong tumpak at mapakinabang na pagpapalagayang-kalakal ng dalawáng bansa.

Ang pagtatatag ng isáng pámahalaang matipíd, magaan at mabisá; ang pagpapairal ng isáng serbisyo sibil na malayá; ang pagpapairal ng isáng angkop na pamamaraan ng pagtuturó sa bayan, na makapagpápaunlad ng malinis na kaugalian, makahuhubog sa mga hilig ng tao, makagigising ng budhing makabayan, at makapagpápalusóg ng káya sa mga gáwain; ang pangangalaga sa kalusugán at sigla ng lahi; ang pangangalaga at pag-papaunlad ng ating mga likás na kayámanan—ang mga itó at ibá pang bagay na mahahalaga ay sadya't táhasan nang tinutukoy sa palátuntunang pampámahalaan ng Koalisyon at sa aking talumpati nang tanggapín ko ang pagkakáhirang na ako'y kandidatuhin; kaya dí na mandin kailangang ulitin ko pa ang aking mga pagkukuró tungkol sa mga gawaing iyan. Yayámang ako'y náhalal sa bisá ng násabing palátuntunan at ng mga ipinahayag kong panihala sa buong panahón ng pakikitunggali sa pagkakandidato sa pangluluhán, ay inuulit ko ngayón ang aking pangakong ang lahat nang iyá'y buong katápatang-loob na aking gáganapín.

Pakikipagmágandahang-loob sa lahat ng bansa ang magiging tuláy na gintó ng aking pangangasiwá. Ang mga bayan sa sandaigdig ay para-parang nagkakáugnayan ng mga pangangailangan, at ang kaunlarán nilá't kaligayahan ay nagkakákawing-kawing na di-sukat máhiwaláy ang isá sa isá. Ang pagkakápatiran at pagtutulungan ng mga bansa ay tunay na kailangan. Matalik na pakiki-pagkaibigan, mabuting pakikisama, matuwíd at marangál na pakikipag-únawaan sa mga ibang bansa at sa kaniláng mga tauhang náririto, makatwirang pagkalinga sa kaniláng mga pamumuhunan at kapakanáng dito'y nátatatág, bilang tumbas sa pagtatapát namán nilá habang nasasa ilalim at nakíkisama sa ating mga kapakanán, pámahalaan at mga batás na umiiral—iyan ang mga tiyák na pagpapalagáy na sa ngalan ng bagong Pámahalaan ay maihahandog ko sa mga Amérikanó at sa mga taga-iba pang bansang nagnanasang makipamuhay, makipagkálakalán at makisama sa bálalang paraan sa atin dito sa Pilipinas.

Sa sakdal-bibigát na mga gáwaing bábalikatin natin upáng máihandá ang atin ding sarili sa pag-tanggap ng ganáp na kasarinlan, ay di-malayong makasagupa nga tayo ng malalaking balakid sa landas na pagdaraan, subali't táhasan tayong magpápatuloy ng lakad. Tinátawagan ko ang inyong mga kagitingán at inaantig ang karanġalan ng inyong mga budhi't pusó, upáng tayo, sa tulong ng matibay na pagkakáisang-loob, ay minsan pang makapaghandog ng ating sarí-sarili sa ika-gaganáp ng mithiin nating panlahát, na dili ibá't ang dakilang kapalaran ng ating bansa. Buóng pag-asa at katiningang-loob na pakíkiharapán ko ang darating, at lubós ang pananalig kong kailanma'y di-pabábayaan bagkus pápatnubayan ng kamáy ni Bathalá ang isáng bayang lagi nang umáalinsunod sa Kanya. Bigyan nawá Niyá ako ng ilaw, lakás at tapang upáng ako'y di-máligáw ni magkulang sa paglilingkod sa aking bayan!

MANUEL L. QUEZON
Pangulo ng Pilipinas

MAYNILA, *ika-15 ng Nobyembre, 1935.*

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Inaugural Address of President Manuel L. Quezon, November 15, 1935

**Inaugural Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Legislative Building, Manila, on November 15, 1935]

Fellow Countrymen:

In the exercise of your constitutional prerogative you have elected me to the presidency of the Commonwealth. I am profoundly grateful for this new expression of your confidence, and God helping me, I shall not fail you.

The event which is now taking place in our midst transcends in importance the mere induction into office of your Chief Executive. We are bringing into being a new nation. We are seeing the fruition of our age-old striving for liberty. We are witnessing the final stage in the fulfillment of the noblest undertaking ever attempted by any nation in its dealing with a subject people. And how well this task has been performed is attested to by the blessing which from 14 million people goes to America in this solemn hour. President McKinley's cherished hope has been fulfilled—the Filipinos look back with gratitude to the day when Destiny placed their land under the beneficent guidance of the people of the United States.

It is fitting that high dignitaries of the American Government should attend these ceremonies. We are thankful to them for their presence here. The President of the United States, His Excellency, Franklin D. Roosevelt, ever solicitous of our freedom and welfare, has sent to us, as his personal representative, the Secretary representative, the Secretary of War, Honorable George H. Dern, whose friendship for our people has proven most valuable in the past. Vice President Garner, Speaker Byrns, distinguished members of the Senate with their floor leader, Senator Robinson, and no less distinguished members of the House of Representatives have traveled ten thousand miles to witness this historic event. I feel that their presence, the whole American Nation, is here today to rejoice with us in the fulfillment of America's pledge generously given that the Filipino people is to become free and independent. It is my hope that the ties of friendship and affection which bind the Philippines to America will remain unbroken and grow stronger after the severance of our political relations with her.

In behalf of the Filipino people, I express deep appreciation to Honorable Frank Murphy, our last Governor-General, for his just and efficient administration and for the wholehearted assistance he has rendered us in the difficult task of laying the constitutional foundation of our new Government.

As we enter the threshold of independent nationhood, let us pause for a moment to pay tribute to the memory of Rizal and Bonifacio and all the heroes of our sacred cause in grateful acknowledgment of their patriotic devotion and supreme sacrifice.

Fellow countrymen: The government which we are inaugurating today is only a means to an end. It is an instrumentality placed in our hands to prepare ourselves fully for the responsibilities of complete independence. It is essential that this last step be taken with full consciousness of its significance and the great opportunities that it affords to us.

Under the Commonwealth, our life may not be one of ease and comfort, but rather of hardship and sacrifice. We shall face the problems which lie in our path, sparing neither time nor effort in solving them. We shall build a government that will be just, honest, efficient, and strong so that the foundations of the coming Republic may be firm and enduring—a government, indeed, that must satisfy not only the passing needs of the hour but also the exacting demands of the future. We do not have to tear down the existing institutions in order to give way to a statelier structure. There will be no violent changes from the established order of things, except such as may be absolutely necessary to carry into effect the innovations contemplated by the Constitution. A new edifice shall rise, not out of the ashes of the past, but out of the standing materials of the living present. Reverence for law as the

expression of the popular will is the starting point in a democracy. The maintenance of peace and public order is the joint obligation of the government and the citizens. I have an abiding faith in the good sense of the people and in their respect for law and the constituted authority. Widespread public disorder and lawlessness may cause the downfall of constitutional government and lead to American intervention. Even after independence, if we should prove ourselves incapable of protecting life, liberty, and property of nationals and foreigners, we shall be exposed to the danger of intervention by foreign powers. No one need have any misgivings as to the attitude of the Government toward lawless individuals or subversive movements. They shall be dealt with firmly. Sufficient armed forces will be maintained at all times to quell and suppress any rebellion against the authority of this Government or the sovereignty of the United States.

There can be no progress except under the auspices of peace. Without peace and public order, it will be impossible to promote education, improve the condition of the masses, protect the poor and ignorant against exploitation, and otherwise insure the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property. I appeal, therefore, to every Filipino to give the Government his loyal support so that tranquillity may reign supreme in our beloved land.

Our Constitution established an independent judiciary by providing for security of tenure and compensation of judges. But independence is not the only objective of a good judiciary. Equally, if not more important, is its integrity which will depend upon the judicious selection of its members. The administration of justice cannot be expected to rise higher than the moral and intellectual standards of the men who dispense it. To bulwark the fortification of an orderly and just government, it shall be my task to appoint to the bench only men of proven honesty, character, learning, and ability, so that everyone may feel when he appears before the courts of justice that he will be protected in his rights, and that no man in this country from the Chief Executive to the last citizen is above the law.

We are living today amidst the storm and stress of one of the most tragic epochs of history. Acute unemployment and economic distress threaten the stability of governments the world over. The very foundations of civilized society are shaken. The common man alone can save humanity from disaster. It is our duty to prove to him that under a republican system of government, he can have every opportunity to attain his happiness and that of his family. Protection to labor, especially to working women and minors, just regulation of the relations between the labor and capital in industry and agriculture, solicitous regard on the part of the government for the well-being of the masses are the means to bring about needed economic and social equilibrium between the component elements of society.

A government draws the breath of life from its finances, and it must balance its income and expenditures as any other going business concern if it expects to survive. It is my duty, then, to see that the Government of the Commonwealth live within its means and that it stands foursquare on a well-balanced budget.

The larger expenditures which the grave responsibilities ahead of us will entail, including national defense, must be borne by taxation. So long as we are able to meet those responsibilities from our present income, we shall not impose new taxes. But we are among the least taxed people in the world and, therefore, when necessity arises, we should be willing to accept the burden of increased taxation. Liberty and independence can be possessed only by those who are ready to pay the price in life or fortune.

To enable us more adequately to meet the new responsibilities of the Commonwealth and to raise the living conditions of our people, we must increase the wealth of the Nation by giving greater impetus to economic development, improving our methods of agriculture, diversifying our crops, creating new industries, and fostering our domestic and foreign commerce. I trust that the forthcoming trade conference between representatives of the United States and the Philippines will result in a more just and beneficial commercial relation between the two countries.

The establishment of an economical, simple, and efficient government; the maintenance of an independent civil service; the implantation of an adequate system of public instruction to develop moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, and vocational efficiency; the safeguarding of the health and vigor of the race; the conservation and development of our natural resources—these and other matters of equal import are touched upon at length in the platform of the Coalition and in my speech of acceptance of my nomination, and it is unnecessary for me to reiterate

my views regarding them. Having been elected on the virtuality of that platform and the policies enunciated by me in the course of the presidential campaign, I renew my pledge faithfully to carry them into execution.

Goodwill towards all nations shall be the golden rule of my administration. The peoples of the earth are interdependent, and their prosperity and happiness are inseparably linked with each other. International brotherhood and cooperation are therefore necessary. Amity and friendship, fairness and square deal in our relations with other nations and their citizens or subjects, protection in their legitimate investments and pursuits, in return for their temporary allegiance to our institutions and laws, are the assurances I make on behalf of the new Government to Americans and foreigners who may desire to live, trade, and otherwise associate with us in the Philippines.

In the enormous task of fully preparing ourselves for independence, we shall be beset with serious difficulties, but we will resolutely march forward. I appeal to your patriotism and summon your nobility of heart so that we may, united in the common endeavor, once more dedicate ourselves to the realization of our national destiny. I face the future with hope and fortitude, certain that God never abandons a people who ever follows His unerring and guiding Hand. May He give me light, strength, and courage evermore that I may not falter in the hour of service to my people!

Oath of Office of President Quezon, November 25, 1935

**Oath of Office
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines**

[Signed on November 25, 1935]

I, MANUEL L. QUEZON, of Baler, Province of Tayabas, having been elected and proclaimed President of the Philippines, hereby solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as President of the Philippines, preserve and defend its Constitution, execute its laws, do justice to every man and consecrate myself to the service of the Nation; and I hereby declare that I recognize and accept the supreme authority of the United States of America in the Philippines and will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto.

So help me God.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**
President of the Philippines

MANILA, *November 25, 1935.*

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon on Spain's contribution to Filipino Culture and Development, January 11, 1936

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO FILIPINO CULTURE
AND DEVELOPMENT**

[Delivered upon the acceptance of the chest donated by the Compañía
General de Tabacos de Filipinas to the Filipino people, at the
Tabacalera Building, Manila, January 11, 1936.]

As I accept today with fullness of feeling, in the name of the people and Government of the Philippines, this precious chest, which is an artistic jewel of the highest value as well as an index and exponent of the age-old fame of the Spanish craftsman, I wish to ask Señor Correa to be so kind as to convey to the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas, of which he is the worthy representative, our gratitude for such a magnificent gift. To every heart attuned to the things of the spirit, the beauty and luster of this work of art is heightened by its exalted symbolism.

The materials—steel, gold, and marble—which compose this marvelous creation of Spanish art, represent with the delicate charm of allegory, the three phases of the sentiment which gave life to this donation; namely, the firmness of the steel, the purity in the gold, and the eternity in the marble, of the bonds of affection and of the spiritual oneness which bind us to the Spanish nation whose noble purposes are so felicitously interpreted by the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas in offering this gift to the Filipino people.

This institution, though of Spanish origin, was born and has grown in our country. It has at all times shown the greatest interest in the things of our land, as evidenced, for example, by the valuable collection of books which the Company had been building up for many years and later transferred to our National Library. Coöperating with us with warm constancy in its agricultural and commercial activities, in the material and cultural development of our country, your Company has made honesty its slogan and fairness its tradition in all its dealings. It has, thus, in all its varied endeavors continued the labors initiated and undertaken by the Spanish nation for three centuries. Now that the Filipino people, after a long and arduous journey toward their political emancipation, have almost reached the goal, I am persuaded that it is but just to dedicate on this occasion our grateful and affectionate remembrance to our former mother country for her great work for our civilization and nationalism. Such accomplishment was principally the diffusion of the gospel, and it is due to this mission that the souls of our forefathers were unfolded to the light of the dogmas and teachings of the Christian religion, which have been transmitted to us, their descendants, as a sacred legacy and a dynamic tradition. Likewise, we owe to Spain the principles of Occidental education which she implanted in these Islands, according to the modes and standards found in Latin countries. But above all, we owe to Spain the preservation for the benefit of our own people, of the soil of our country, as well as the laying down, by means of religion and education, of the foundations of our national unity. It is, thus, that the Archipelago, composed of numerous and isolated islands, which in 1521 was discovered by Magellan and was but a geographical expression apparently without any common interest or aspiration, is today a compact and solid nation, with its own history, its heroes, its martyrs and its own flag, a people uplifted by a consciousness of its own personality, feeling a deep sense of worth and inspired by a high vision of its great destiny.

If Spain had done nothing in the Philippines but the wielding of scattered and separate elements into the consummate structure of our nationality, which has not only enabled us to assimilate another civilization such as that brought to us by the United States of America but has also prevented the basic and distinctive elements of our personality from being carried away by strange currents, thus bringing us to the triumph of our aspiration to be an

independent nation; I repeat that if this had been the only work of Spain in the Philippines, it would in itself be sufficient, in spite of the mistakes which, in the words of the poet, were “crimes of the times and not of Spain,” to raise in every Filipino heart—if this has not already been done—a monument of undying gratitude to the memory of Spain side by side with that which we should erect in honor of the American people. These two civilizations, the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon, which the fortunes of war have brought to us to make the soil of our land more fruitful, have moulded our national character in a manner so different from that of neighboring nations that in addition to the results of our own efforts, it may be said in truth that to both civilizations we owe in large measure our aptitude and fitness to assume the responsibilities of the present government and of the independent State which will inevitably follow.

Another reason for thanking your Company is the fact that this magnificent coffer is intended to be the depository for our fundamental law. Like the Ark of the Covenant, this chest will contain the precious conquest of our struggles for liberty, the remembrance of which will be rendered more vivid by a contemplation of this beautiful token of affection from you and the Spanish nation, during the decade of trial to which the patriotism and the capacity of our race will be subjected before the final enjoyment of complete independence. In accepting so precious a coffer for a jewel of such inestimable value as our Constitution, we cannot but admire and appreciate the happy and delicate idea which, reminiscent of Biblical times, is expressed by this eloquent testimony of your thoughtfulness and generosity. May the Almighty grant that, with better fortune than that of the people led by Moses, our nation may reach the Land of Promise which is today within sight, so that we may deposit this ark with the precious document which it will contain, in the tabernacle of the Temple of Liberty.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on Role of U.S. High Commissioner in American-Philippine Relationship,
January 11, 1936**

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**ROLE OF U. S. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AMERICAN-
PHILIPPINE RELATIONSHIP**

[Delivered at a banquet in honor of Honorable Frank Murphy,
United States High Commissioner to the Philippines, at
Malacañan Palace, Manila, January 11, 1936.]

Mr. High Commissioner, Gentlemen:

I feel genuine pleasure in having as guest of honor to night the United States High Commissioner to the Philip pines. He is the representative of the President of the United States and the symbol of American sovereignty in our country. As such he merits the highest regard and distinction from this Government, as well as the friendliest sentiments from our people.

But this occasion is doubly significant to us, for as we honor the office of High Commissioner we are paying personal tribute to its present incumbent, one of our best benefactors, our former Governor-General, Frank Murphy. He has brought to that exalted post proven ability, tact, and character. To him we owe much for the laying down of the constitutional foundations of the Commonwealth in an expeditious and orderly fashion. Without his wise counsel and continued support, our new government might not have been inaugurated yet, nor would such inauguration been held under so favorable auspices. We are indebted to him also for the high standards of efficiency and integrity which he upheld in our Government, for his interest in awakening the public conscience to the most elemental claims of social justice, and for the examples in simple living and public-spiritedness which he has given us since his assumption of the duties of Governor-General. His deep and abiding sympathy for our aspirations, moved by his great love for liberty and the right of the people to rule themselves, has likewise been an encouragement to us. I trust that his faith in our people will be justified. Our nation has chosen the road to independence. That decision was made with full knowledge of the sacrifices and difficulties that must be met. We are following that road with determined and firm tread. There will be no turning back.

The success of the Commonwealth Government will depend in great measure upon the sympathetic attitude and broad understanding of the United States High Commissioner. I feel that President Roosevelt could not have appointed to this office a man possessing more of the qualities needed to successfully discharge its duties than the Honor able Frank Murphy. I look forward during my whole administration to maintaining with the United States High Commissioner a relationship that shall be characterized at all times by harmony, friendship, and mutual confidence and respect. I have no doubt that as long as the Honorable Frank Murphy holds that post—and I hope it will be for many years—our relations will also be marked by an intimate cooperation in safeguarding the legitimate rights of sovereignty of the United States in the Commonwealth and in insuring the welfare, happiness, and liberty of the Filipino people.

I wish to reiterate on this occasion our faith and trust in the United States and to voice once more our profound gratitude for the policy of altruism and unselfishness it has pursued in our land. We are also thankful to the present administration in Washington and to the Congress which have done so much to bring to a speedy and successful

accomplishment America's noble enterprise in the Philippines. President Roosevelt has not only afforded us every facility to carry out the different processes leading to the establishment of our present Government, but also in every instance has shown solicitude to promote the just interests of our people. It may be hoped that under his leadership our trade relations with the United States will be adjusted in a manner that will give us a fair opportunity adequately to prepare ourselves for the conditions that will obtain when we shall have become independent.

With this in view, the holding of an economic conference between representatives of the United States and the Philippines has been engaging the attention of the government in Washington for the last few months. My Government is looking forward to the calling of this conference on a date which Washington may consider most propitious. This conference might survey the whole field of American-Philippine trade to determine the inequalities in our present relationship resulting from the provisions of the Independence Act, and also whether under the economic provisions of said Act it is feasible to carry out the object of said provisions and the aim of Congress; namely, to readjust our economy prior to the complete severance of the political relations between the two countries. Agreements reached at this conference either to cure inequalities or to make the provisions of the Independence Law more in keeping with their purpose, will receive the support of my Government.

It is hardly necessary to point to the importance of this economic conference for the Philippines. This Government has been preparing the necessary data for the use of our conferees, and will be ready to cooperate with the representatives of the United States to the end that we may establish a trade relationship that will redound to the lasting mutual benefit of the two countries.

Our Government is facing problems of extraordinary complexity and far-reaching importance. These problems include not only those which confront all new governments, but also more particularly the preparation of the Philippines for free nationhood. First among these is the question of national security. For this reason it has been the first concern of our Government to organize and gradually build up a system of national defense. While during the next ten years the Philippines will continue under American sovereignty and may look to the United States for its defense, we have undertaken this task despite the considerable cost that it will entail upon our finances, because we wish to share with the United States the responsibility of our national defense and thus in some way lighten the burden which it has assumed in our behalf.

We are watching with profound interest developments in Europe looking to the strengthening of the instrumentalities of peace, especially the efforts of the League of Nations to end ruthless aggression. These efforts merit our deepest sympathy. The neutrality policy of the United States as declared by Congress and elaborated upon by President Roosevelt in his last message to that body will have the whole-hearted support of my Government. As all the other countries of the world, the Philippines craves for security and the opportunity to live unmolested and free.

A proper solution of our many problems demands from us not only the highest degree of statesmanship and a willingness to sacrifice individual interests, but also the cooperation of the United States which can only be made possible through the intimate collaboration of the High Commissioner with our Government. We are indeed fortunate that with the Honorable Frank Murphy occupying that post we shall be assured of that collaboration.

Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to the health of High Commissioner Frank Murphy, the trusted friend of the Filipinos.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Address of President Quezon on National Defense

Address of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines On National Defense

[Delivered before the Faculty and Students of the University of the
Philippines at the U. P. Campus, Manila, February 12, 1936]

Democracy is maintained by the cooperative effort of the governed. Contributions made by every citizen toward the support of a democratic government should be in direct proportion to the privileges, opportunities, and advantages enjoyed by him under that government. It is particularly evident that any person privileged to enjoy unusual advantages provided at the expense of all the people should bear a correspondingly high order of obligation in promoting the general welfare. Every student in this University, and in similar institutions maintained at government expense, is benefiting above the average from the opportunities offered by the Filipino nation to its citizens. Each and every one of you is expected, therefore, to play a correspondingly important part in meeting the responsibilities devolving upon our people and their government. One of these responsibilities involves provision for the common defense.

Self-preservation is the first law of life. Nations, like individuals, will, in the face of threatened extinction, resort to any device and employ any measure, no matter how desperate, in order to preserve their existence. So axiomatic is this statement that from this standpoint a nation may be defined as a political group motivated by a common determination to subordinate all considerations of individual welfare to the preservation of group integrity. This determination is the principal unifying influence, and without it no nation can long endure.

Since the destruction of a nation is usually accomplished through the application of military force, the determination to exist must be implemented through the development and maintenance of a military system that can protect the nation from violent attack, no matter from what source. Readiness and ability to oppose force with force have always been demanded by the world as the price of independent existence. National freedom can flourish only under the shelter provided by armed forces embodying the will of a liberty-loving people to preserve their identity as a nation.

An effective military establishment cannot be improved on the spur of the moment. Time—a long period of time—is an essential factor, and so we have as a prime duty of government, withal one of the individual obligations of its citizens, that of undertaking in time of peace those preparations that will protect the nation in the event of war.

I am well aware that many individuals, and even organized groups, oppose every type of preparation for the eventuality of war. In the vast majority of cases these persons are inspired by an idealistic regard for the advantages of peace and a justified horror of the evils of war. Only a small minority can fairly be classed as subversive elements, seeking to cloak their destructive purpose under a veil of outward devotion to a lofty ideal. Yet even the most sincere idealist should not be unmindful of the realities of life. All of us agree that might does not make right, yet none of us can fail to realize that the rule of right depends upon the existence of might.

The laws of our National Assembly, the decisions of our courts, the edicts of our Government,—all promulgated in the interests of fairness and justice to all the people,—would be no more than so many scraps of worthless paper were it not for the potential physical power behind them. The Policeman and soldier are symbols of this latent but usually dormant power upon which the whole structure of government rests.

So, it is futile to cry out against the employment of force in carrying on the functions of government. We cannot dwell exclusively in the realm of Utopian theory. We must face the stark and grim actualities of life. One of these actualities is that defenselessness invites aggression—that greed, envy, and ruthlessness are always ready to take instant advantage of unprotected wealth and undefended territory. Moreover, unless a citizen can feel reasonably

secure from depredation there can be no domestic tranquility, no prosperity, and no cultural development. Fear, exploitation, paralysis, and disintegration can be the only result.

Our problem, then, is to provide security, and to do so with the least possible drain upon the public treasury. The plan incorporated in the Philippine National Defense Act has only these two objectives in view. Fundamentally, it does no more than assign to individuals their respective duties in the development of necessary defense forces and establishes the machinery and methods whereby all elements may be combined into an effective army. The whole force, except for a very small professional group, will be primarily engaged in peaceful pursuits, but each male citizen of suitable age and physical condition will, as a civic duty, serve in the army a sufficient time to perfect himself in the military duties devolving upon him. Thus, our popular will be prepared, in the event of war, to mobilize promptly and effectively against invasion.

The professional or full-time complement will be strong enough only to insure the instruction of, and to provide the necessary leadership for, the citizen army. In this way, the plan minimizes cost, while avoiding all danger of building up a powerful military caste that might strive to abandon its legitimate position of servant and defender of the people in the hope of making itself the master.

The law provides for the organizational and administrative machinery necessary to register citizens for military training and to induct them into the service. It makes provision for preliminary training in the public schools and for the procurement of necessary arms, equipment, and reserve stores. In short, it establishes an administrative, organizational, and training system which will make each of our islands a veritable fortress placed under the vigilant guardianship of its own trained inhabitants.

In developing and maintaining an army of the type I have just described, one of the gravest and most difficult problems is that of providing trained officers for reserve units. A strong and efficient officer corps is an indispensable element to military success. Scarcity of rations and ammunition, depletion in strength, privation and hardship—all these may be endured by an army and success may still be attained. There can be no hope, however, of winning without the skillful cooperation and unity of action which may be obtained only through the efforts of trained and devoted officers. Both regular and reserve officers must achieve and maintain a high state of efficiency. In the case of the regulars, no great difficulty should be encountered since they will follow the military profession as a life career. But reserve officers' efficiency will not be so easily attained. In the great task of developing the defensive plan for the Philippines, this is the problem that gives me the most profound concern, and this is the field in which the students of this and other universities will find their greatest opportunity for service.

Attendance at such institutions evidences personal ambition, intelligence, and a sound basic education. It is because of the nation's crying need for trained and educated leaders in every walk of life that the Government maintains a free school system. Referring again to my earlier statement that you, university students, owe an unusual debt of obligation to this country, I conceive it to be your special duty to help lead our people in their effort to provide for their own protection. More categorically, I believe it to be a primary duty of every able-bodied student in our universities to take full advantage of the course of military instruction provided through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Each and all of you should have a burning ambition to perfect himself in the technique and practice of the military profession, and to be ready in an emergency to do his part as commissioned officer to help furnish that leadership without which military organizations cannot act effectively. A principal duty of the faculties is to assist you in attaining this degree of military efficiency.

I also believe that each and every student in these higher institutions of learning should consider himself a voluntary educator in his own community on the subject of National Defense. You should seek opportunity to disseminate information concerning the purposes and methods of the Philippine Defense System and to demonstrate the necessity for its existence. No great cooperative effort of the kind upon which we are embarking can be successful except with the enthusiastic and spontaneous support of the whole population. To secure such support, the people must be informed and enlightened. This is a mission that no one else can so well perform as you. If you are successful, we need fear neither in our lifetime nor in the future any loss of our national dignity, integrity, and independence. Should you fail in the performance of this high mission and should our people come to regard national defense as the duty of the Government alone or of a small group of professional soldiers, we are certain

sooner or later to face the bleak and bitter prospect of domination by an alien power. We will suffer the humiliation of our helplessness and the remorse of our own improvidence.

In a very real sense, therefore, is the security of our beloved Philippines placed in your hands. Falter not in this hour of need. The task demands your efforts, your intelligence, and your patriotism. These, I am confident, you will give unflinchingly and unhesitatingly. Remember that “He who saves his country saves himself & all things saved do bless him; he who lets his country die, lets all things die, dies himself ignobly, and all things dying curse him.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Address of President Quezon on Accomplishments during the First Quarter of the Commonwealth Government, February 19, 1936 ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT**

[Delivered, through the Movietone, at Manila, February 19, 1936]

To the American People:

I am greatly grateful for this rare privilege of being able to address the American people through the medium of the Movietone. The Filipino people have just completed their first quarter of absolute self-rule under their Constitution, the adoption of which has been made possible by the magnanimous action of America as reflected in the passage of the Independence Act.

With complete cooperation between the Chief Executive and the National Assembly, our Government has given expression in the various measures enacted during the short session immediately following the inauguration of the Commonwealth to the needed solutions for the most pressing problems confronting the Commonwealth in its task to prepare the nation for complete independence.

In pursuance of these measures we have already commenced the organization of our National Defense, through a long-range plan adopted upon the recommendation of one of the foremost authorities on military affairs the United States has ever produced.

The reorganization of our judicial system in consonance with the provisions of our Constitution had a most auspicious beginning with the creation and establishment of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, the membership of which has been acclaimed by the bench and bar, and the entire people as well.

It has been disposed by executive order that all appointments to the public service shall be made entirely under strict civil service rules and regulations, thus giving force to the provisions of our Constitution in this respect.

We have now completed the organization of the National Economic Council, the purpose of which is to plan our national economy, by giving our economic development a rational and definite direction so that at the end of the transition period we may be able to build up in the Philippines a reasonably stable economic structure capable of serving the financial and other needs of an independent nation.

The welfare of the masses of my people has been one of the greatest concerns of this Government and to that end special attention is being given to all agrarian problems with a view to settling once and for all the relations which should obtain between landlord and tenant in all the rural communities.

We are indeed grateful to the great American people for the opportunity which has been afforded us to work out our own destiny. I have complete faith in this noble experiment and my people feel as one in their determination to carry this task to a successful conclusion.

In behalf of my Government and of my people I extend to all of you and to your beloved President our affection and most cordial salutations.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Government Cooperation and Military Training, February 28, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Government Cooperation and Military Training**

[Delivered at Tuguegarao, Cagayan, February 28, 1936]

Mr. Governor, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I hope I will not disappoint you tonight. Very seldom do I claim any credit for anything I do in my public life. After listening to the speech of Governor Formoso, however, I feel that I have the right to claim at this time something which I have done not only for the Province of Cagayan but also for all the provinces constituting the Cagayan Valley. If I had not heard the speech of Governor Formoso, I would not know how well he has supported me all these years. If I were not sure not only of his loyalty but of his personal friendship as well, I would believe that his speech was in the main devoted to a criticism of the National Government. The first thing I heard from him is that the road which made it possible for people from Aparri to go to Manila in comfortable automobiles did not do any good to the Province of Cagayan. I still remember the time when I went to Aparri on horseback, passing over the mountains separating Nueva Vizcaya from Nueva Ecija, and it almost killed me. But now I am here in Tuguegarao when I only left Manila day before yesterday. If I am tired, certainly it was not because of the trip, for I made it in a comfortable automobile. I am tired because I have been talking too much in every town along the way.

The road may benefit the Provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela more directly, but certainly it has also benefited the Province of Cagayan. To show Governor Formoso and the people of Cagayan how really important it is, try to close it to transportation! And I want to warn Governor Formoso that if he makes the same remarks again, I will close the road—for the Province of Cagayan only—not for the Provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela [*Laughter*], for I was responsible, one of the two men mainly responsible, for the building of that part of the road. Governor Harrison was the other man. It was through our common efforts that we secured from the Legislature sufficient funds to connect Nueva Vizcaya with Nueva Ecija by highway. Let me tell you that that short road alone, connecting those two provinces, cost the National Government P1,800,000. Now if you do not like that road, I will close it for you. [*A voice of protest.*]

Governor Formoso also complained about water transportation. My dear friends, when I first came to Cagayan, you had neither a road from Aparri to Manila nor any kind of a port at Aparri. I promised the people of this Valley then that I would do what I could to open such a road and also to give Aparri a port. Through my efforts and, of course, with the cooperation of the senators and representatives from this Valley, I succeeded in getting an appropriation for the Port of Aparri, on which, though we have already spent half a million pesos, we are still spending money. Listening to Governor Formoso, it would seem that we have done nothing for Aparri. Now, gentlemen, I want you to know that I am not God. God alone has the power to bring light with the words "Let there be light." I cannot build the Port of Aparri by saying "Let there be a port in Aparri." It takes time for the labors of men to achieve anything, and the kind of work that is being done and has yet to be done in Aparri will take time. We are on the way and we have already spent P500,000 as I said. The work will require P500,000 more, and right now we still have P300,000 available. So I am proud to say to the people of Cagayan now that I am here again, and that what I promised I would do on my first visit is now a long way towards complete fulfillment.

But, my friends, you seem to believe that everything has to be done for you by the National Government. You are not satisfied with having this road opened entirely at the cost of the Insular Government and your port built also with Insular funds. You still seem to feel that the National Government is neglecting you. I do not blame Governor Formoso for asking for so many things. Every man has the right to ask for what he wants, but the question is whether he has the right to get it or whether he can get it

The first mistake that I made as President of the Philippine Commonwealth was what I did for the people of the Province of Cagayan. It was a mistake for which the municipal presidents of this province and the Provincial Governor have given me their thanks. That mistake was my condoning the payment of 20 per cent of your land taxes. Let me tell you in all sincerity that I do not want you to thank me for what was a mistake on my part. Now I want to take seriously. I made that mistake knowingly. I did it because I had authorized Governor Formoso to tell the people of Cagayan that I was in favor of doing that for them, and since I had made that promise, I did not make it with the idea of winning the votes of the people of Cagayan. I made it because at that time I thought it was safe to reduce the tax. I felt that Governor Formoso, the Provincial Board, and the municipal councils of the Province of Cagayan were right in asking what they did from the National Government. Therefore, I caused Governor Formoso to secure that the condonation and told him that if he did not get it from the former Governor-General Murphy I would see to it myself later.

When the matter was submitted to me it was after my inauguration as President, and I saw that many people in Cagayan had already paid their taxes in full, and felt that if some people had done their duty there was no reason why others should not also do so. But I had promised, and thus you did not pay, and were not good citizens. [Applause.] I should not have encouraged that. I was a party to your failure in the performance of your duty to our country by doing what I was asked to do, although I saw that most of you could have paid if you had wanted to. But, as I said, I made my promise and I did not want the people of Cagayan to say that my word could not be relied upon.

Let me tell you frankly and sincerely now not to ask me again what I should not do, for I would not grant your request. How can Governor Formoso expect me to do all that he asks for in the way of public improvements, if he is the first in asking that you be allowed not to pay your taxes? Where do you think the National Government would get the money with which to provide these public improvements, if every province asks the National Government for funds and at the same time asks the President not to collect their taxes?

Let us have a very plain talk tonight. My friends, the National Government is not receiving special help from God. The Insular Treasury is not filled with gold coming from heaven. The money which is spent on our public improvements, on our roads, must come from the people of our country. We cannot take it from Japan, America, England, or Russia. If the people of some provinces pay their taxes and others do not, what are we going to do?

I did not take a very deep interest in the welfare and prosperity of the people of this Valley, as I said, until I made that trip years ago when you had neither a road to Manila nor a port at Aparri. From then on I have taken an interest in this region of the Philippines. When I saw these wonderful rich fields lying idle, when I saw this beautiful country, one of the most beautiful in these beautiful islands of ours [applause], and with but few people to enjoy all this wealth and beauty of Nature, when I saw all that, I at once realized that the only reason why the Cagayan Valley was not as developed as the Central Luzon region, was that it lacked means of access, and I, therefore, immediately proceeded to do what I could to extend transportation and communication facilities both by land and water to this wonderful part of our country. I sincerely hope that it will not be long before the Port of Aparri will be able not only to shelter those little Compañía Tabacalera boats but also the largest boats plying between America and the Philippines. [Applause.]

But, my friends, you must earn that. You must show me during my administration that you realize the new responsibilities devolving upon the Filipino people and that you are ready to bear your share of them if you are to continue receiving help from the National Government. If I see that the attitude that you take here is to leave everything to the National Government without doing something yourselves, your province may lose the help I am giving you. I want to be frank with you, and I say that if I find that all you do is to ask for money, you will get nothing at all. I wish every one to cooperate in every way, and the one most important way for you to cooperate with your Government is to pay your taxes. Take note of that—your Government.

Is there any one of you here who does not know the change that has taken place in the Philippines in the political situation of this country and in our Government? Do you know that the Government of the Philippines today is truly and fully a government of the Filipino people, for the Filipino people, and by the Filipino people? It is, therefore, your Government. We have been fighting centuries back to become some day a free people, to become self-governing, to have our own independent national existence. At last the dreams of our ancestors are to be realized. Independence will be ours ten years from now. Today in all matters affecting our domestic affairs, we alone have the

authority and the power to determine what shall be done. The Chief Executive of our country is no longer an American appointed by the President of the United States. He is a native-born Filipino, elected by the voters of the Philippines. He is the President, the highest executive authority, not by virtue of his own will, not because he has wrested that authority by force from any one, but because the people of our country, in the exercise of their right to choose their own President in a fair and free election, have elected him to be at the helm of the public affairs. So that today, the Government of the Philippines, I say it again, is in our hands and is our Government. The power and authority which are vested in me by law, you have given to me. It is my duty, my sworn duty, to make the Government of the Commonwealth one of the best governments known to men. [Applause.] It is my duty and it is my determination to give you, my people, the best government you ever had since our country has been governed by any one. [Applause.] I am ready to give everything that there is in me to make it possible for you to have that government. I am sparing no effort in order that you may realize what a great thing it is to have a government of your own.

But I cannot give you the kind of government that I want to give you, that you are entitled to have, and that it is our common duty to establish in memory of those who fought, bled, and died for the freedom of our country, unless the people and the provincial and municipal officials cooperate with me. That is why I am traveling through the provinces—so that I may get in touch with the common people, so that the local officials may know the responsibilities of the new Government and so that, in common consent and agreement, we may all get together, each one to do his part in the tremendous task of nation-building that is before us.

The duty of the provincial and municipal officials is to see to it that the laws are complied with. Their duty is to give you in every municipality and in every province an honest government, a government which will render you service without the necessity of your paying something extra for the service that you are getting. [Applause.] The law prescribes the salary that every official of the Government receives, and whether that salary is big or small, the official who accepts a position has no right to expect more than the salary provided by law, and no right to take advantage of his office either to get some present, a “gratificación,” as we call it here, or some indirect advantage through which to enrich himself. It is the duty of the officials of this Government to give the people an efficient government; which means that everybody must work and work well, do his job well. The Government must be just, must protect the people from abuses and wrongdoings; and if anyone violates the law or commits abuses, it is the duty of government officials to go after such man, regardless of who he is. [Applause.] We must have but one norm of conduct in our dealings with the People. The law must be the same for the powerful and for the weak, for the rich and for the poor. That is the kind of government that the people of the Philippines are entitled to have and that is the kind of government that I want to give to them, and I am sure I will be able to give it to them if I shall have the support of the provincial and municipal officials and especially of the people at large. [Applause.]

I am very much concerned about this question of the payment of our taxes. First, because in every country that is the first duty of a citizen—to pay his tax. All this talk about “I love my country and I am ready to sacrifice my life,” is nonsense. The one way of really showing your love for your country is to pay your taxes. I am tired of hearing, “We are ready to die,” for nobody is asking you to die. It is not necessary, not yet, anyway. But we have to pay our taxes first, if we want to be independent, because the responsibilities of an independent government are greater, much greater than the responsibilities of a colony, and those responsibilities have to be met with money, and don’t forget that.

Once more I say to you that money is not coming from America, England, nor even from heaven; the money must come from us. Under the Independence Act it is provided that if the Philippine Government or any of its dependencies or instrumentalities should fail to meet its financial obligations, the President of the United States may order the High Commissioner to take over the Customhouse and use the income therefrom for the payment of those financial obligations. So that one of the few circumstances under which America may again interfere with us in the government of our country, is when there is a financial obligation on the part of our Government, whether provincial or municipal, that we are unable to meet. Now is there any good, handsome Cagayano who is willing to see his country humiliated, as it surely will be humiliated if America should seize our Customhouse to force us to pay our obligations? Is there any Cagayano? I hope not one of you. And let me tell you if there is any one, I am going to compel him to pay anyhow. [Laughter.] This is not a question of whether he wants to or not; the law requires it. So do not talk about this condonation anymore and do not send representatives again, not even Governor Formoso, for they will not get it. [Applause.]

In order that there may be no anti-tax-paying leagues hereafter, I am going to tell you what I have in mind. I have noticed that some are beginning to take as a joke this payment of taxes because in the past the Government has found itself unable to meet the situation created in some places. When the Government takes a piece of property for nonpayment of taxes, it has to sell it or keep it. If it keeps it, the property is of no utility or good to anybody. If it sells it, a few rich fellows in the town get the property, and the result is a serious agrarian situation. I have conceived a new plan and that is to recommend to the Legislature, unless I see the people are paying their taxes, that whenever a landowner does not pay his tax, the Government take over his land as is being done now, but that instead of selling it to any individual, it be divided among the poor of the town. [Applause.] There are many people who would like to have land, and if the proprietors do not want to pay their taxes, their property will go to the people. The result would be that there would be more people in the Philippines owning lands. While there might be two or three people in a locality who might feel they were harshly dealt with, yet there would be fifty or more that would be made happy. Therefore, you landowners, make your choice, and avoid a mistake. Go back and tell your friends that all their land will go to those who have no land if they do not pay their taxes.

Independence does not mean, as some demagogues have been saying, that everyone will be able to lead a fine life of ease and pleasure, with nobody working, nobody paying taxes, and everybody rich and happy. Now, that is not independence, and securing you such a life is not my job. My job is to give you a government that will give you every opportunity to improve your lot, but you must do your own part before it will improve. We will open roads for you, and will give you schools with the taxes, of course, that you yourselves pay. We will prevent monopolies by the rich so that the poor will have equal opportunity. We will see to it that the man who works in the fields or in the factory gets the proper return for his work, and will not let anybody exploit him like a beast. [Applause.] That is my job, but you see you will have to work to improve your condition; you will yourselves have to take advantage of the opportunity that the new Government will create for you. I am not going to put money into the pockets of anybody for I have none to give, and even if I had I would not do so. The government is not a charitable institution to which men who are invalids or who are just lazy and do not want to work, can go and apply for something. Let us take seriously the job that we have before us. Let us take it seriously, my fellow citizens. We can build up a great people and a magnificent country if we have the right idea as to what we may expect from the Government and what we should do for ourselves.

Oh, this is a great country, eminently rich in its natural resources, and we have capable people here that can tell us what to do and lead us through the right path but let us do away with the small vices that we have. Let us not have so many fiestas and spend everything we have for them. Let us keep something for tomorrow. Let us not gamble all the time. Let us gamble occasionally, if we must, but not all the time, for God's sake! [Applause.] Now I am not a perfect human being myself, as of course, you know. I suppose some of you have heard that I am not much more than trash! The human being that does not want to enjoy life is not a human being. It is true that this is the valley of tears, but God did not mean that we should all be crying all the time. God is not cruel; He is our father. He gave us a beautiful world with opportunities for enjoyment, but he imposes upon us the obligation of earning our livelihood. So let us have good time, but not all the time. Let us have fiestas, but not spend everything. Let us have nice clothes, but not borrow money to get them. Certainly, the first thing that the Filipinos must do before they talk of economic development, is to economize. I am sure that if I performed a miracle here, which I cannot do, by virtue of which all of you here would be converted into rich men, and you did not learn to economize, you would be in the same place again after a year. What is economy? If you want to dance, don't dance for P10 if you can dance for P1. If you want a fiesta, don't kill all your "baboyos" in one day. If you want a car, buy only one that you can pay for, and don't borrow money to buy an expensive automobile. If you purchase it by installments, which means that you only borrow it until it is fully paid for, you are running the risk of losing what you may have paid even to the extent sometimes of starving your family, whenever you fail to keep up the installment payments. Are we going to continue doing all this? If we do, we might as well quit now and say, "It is impossible; the people of the Philippines can never be anything but slaves."

One of the reasons why I am advocating military training is to have men properly trained to fight to defend our country if necessary, and also to develop a class of men who will look at life more seriously than some of our people now do, men who will be taught in the training camps the virtue of hard labor, the virtue of methodical life, the virtue of discipline, the virtue of self-sacrifice. For men of this sort are the men capable of building a nation of real men, the men who can make the Philippines a country that we all long to see, not only independent, not only self-

governing, but a country inhabited by men conscious of their rights and responsibilities, determined to fight for them and to die if necessary. [*Applause.*]

I have almost given up hope about the possibility of improving the character of the men of my generation. It would be largely a waste of time anyway, as we shall all die within a few more years. But the next ten years will give us the opportunity to bring up our young men and make every one of them a real man. In the training camps they will not be wasting their nights dancing. They will not be wasting Sunday going to cockfights. They will not be wasting their time at fiestas or in thinking up a lot of foolish ideas. They will be there building themselves up physically and morally in order that they may be truly the worthy compatriots of men like Rizal, Bonifacio, and Mabini. The National Defense Act is not necessary for the defense of our country alone. We may never have to fight another nation, but I believe that if we carry on successfully this compulsory military training, if we build men of the type that will come out of those training camps, there will be no nation on earth that will not respect us. We may never have to fire a shot, but through this military training, we will build up a new nation, a nation of workers, a nation of serious-minded individuals, a nation of men who want to do their duty and do it well.

My hope is in you, young men, and my hope is in you young women, and I want to tell you, young men what I said in Ilagan this morning. What I am asking; you to do is to undergo military training for a few months, an insignificant length of time as compared with the two years I was in the field. We roved the mountains. We had no barracks; only a nipa shack occasionally. Many a night we slept on the bare ground, in the mud with the rain pouring down on us. Many a day we had nothing to eat but wild fruits. I went through all kinds of hardships and sacrifices as a soldier, and I did it for two years. After that I contracted malaria from which I suffered for another ten years. As a result, I later on contracted tuberculosis from the effects of which I have only recently recovered. That is what I have done for our country. I think I have a right to ask you, young men, to do so much less than that—to go to the fine barracks for a few months where you will get good food, good beds, and good guns, real guns. Why, my gun was so bad I almost killed myself with it.

Now don't let some fools tell you this military training is a revival of the "quintos" system. Don't let them insult you with such remarks. Under the Spanish "quintos," one man out of every five was compelled to serve as a soldier in the Spanish army, but the son of the rich or the influential was never taken. Those soldiers were compelled to fight for the Spanish government and the Spanish flag. Under the National Defense Act, the son of the richest man in the Philippines will have to undergo military training in the camps. My own boy will have to go when he reaches the required age. I regret my son is not yet old enough, otherwise I would see to it that he is the first one to go to training. [*Applause.*] You are going to the camps not to serve a foreign flag or government, but to serve our flag, to serve our Government, and to serve our country. [*Applause.*]

You will probably hear some people say that it is not necessary to undertake all that now because for the next ten years we will remain under the American flag and America is compelled to defend us. They say we better spend the money for other purposes. That just shows that some people never learn, not even from experience. They evidently think that since America will still be here we can postpone training until ten years hence. Then, they believe, we can improvise a Philippine army. They have so soon forgotten what happened to the army we improvised before and which was licked like hell after a few encounters, and I was one of the runners. It is true that in the beginning that improvised army was able to beat the Spanish soldiers, because most of them were recruits, not real soldiers, not veterans, and naturally the Filipinos with bolos alone were able to give them a good fight, but it was not so when we faced the American soldiers, for as I told you, we ran like hell all over the country because we did not know how to handle our guns. Ten years is not too long a time to build up a real army.

So, my friends, get ready. Men of age, please Steady. Let me say that you are good fellows, without exception, ready when it is necessary to show in deeds your love for the Philippines, ready to die if necessary for our country which is entitled to all devotion, all patriotism.

My dear compatriots, God has been so generous with the Filipino people that he has given us one of the most beautiful, one of the richest countries upon the face of the earth. I have been around the world many times, but never have I seen a land so beautiful as this country of ours. Are we going to let anybody take from us that which has been given us by God? I say with you, "No, never!" [*Long applause.*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Public Service and Loyalty to the Government, February 28, 1936

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PUBLIC SERVICE AND LOYALTY TO THE GOVERNMENT

[Delivered at Ilagan, Isabela, February 28, 1936]

Mr. Governor, Mr. President, People of Isabela, particularly of Ilagan:

Yesterday, after my speech to the people of Echague, your Governor at least three times called my attention to the fact that I made too long a speech. For that reason, I am going to be brief here. I am just going to tell you what I consider to be absolutely essential. In the first place, I want to tell you what the change in the Government of the Philippines means, in order that you may realize the great responsibilities now resting on our people and in order that you may try as best you can to meet those responsibilities. For the first time in the history of the people of the Philippines we have the power of governing ourselves. Now, except only such matters as have been reserved to the Government of the United States, all the affairs of our people are in the hands of officials elected by ourselves. Heretofore, the legislative branch of the Government was the only one of the three departments that was entirely in the hands of the Filipino people. The executive power was lodged in an American Governor-General appointed by the President of the United States. Thus the highest government authority in our country was an American, not responsible to the Filipino electorate. By an act of Congress, passed generously in our interest, that supreme authority has been given to a man who is a native of our country, chosen by our people in a free election. As the Chief Executive of the Government of the Commonwealth, as the representative of the Filipino nation, I am the highest executive authority today in our country. [*Applause.*] And I hold this position not by virtue of an appointment made in my favor by any outside authority, nor because I have wrested that authority from someone else's hand. I hold this position because the people of this country have elected me to it. As the Chief Executive, I am responsible ultimately for the administration of public affairs in our country. I accepted my nomination as a candidate to the presidency with one purpose, and one only, and that is to give the Filipino people the best possible government that could be given them. [*Applause.*] I made that promise to the electorate during the national campaign. I was elected, I suppose, upon that promise and upon your conviction that I would fulfill it when elected. Now, I am before the people of Ilagan not as a candidate making promises but as a President ready to fulfill those promises. [*Applause.*] Bear in mind that under the Constitution I cannot be a candidate to succeed myself. Insofar as needing your votes is concerned, I shall never need them again. If I ever did talk to the people with the idea of only pleasing them, whether I meant what I said or not, perhaps because of some political ambition, at this time you must believe everything I say, for there is no more political ambition still remaining for me to satisfy. [*Applause.*] Insofar as my political fortune is concerned, it makes no difference whether I am a good or a bad President, and insofar as my personal interests go, it might be better for me to be a bad rather than a good President. [*Applause.*] I am elected for a term of six years and unless I commit a crime which, under no circumstance, I would do, nobody can put me out of office. If I spent the next six years staying in Malacañan, sleeping twelve hours every night, dancing the rest of the day, eating good food, and signing only one or two papers a month, I would be all right still and nobody could put me down. I could, if I wanted to, let a secretary of a department do the work for me so that the next six years could be for me nothing but a continuous holiday—a fine vacation, for there is nobody who has the authority to make me work. I tell you this so that you may realize that whatever I say and whatever I do, I say and do in all earnestness, because I believe it, because I think it is the best for my people and for my country. [*Applause.*] So in addressing you, if I should say something which is not to your liking, please take it in good grace for I shall say it with the best intention of serving your best interest.

I said at the beginning of my remarks that for the first time in the history of our people we are governing ourselves. Up to this time, we have been governed by foreigners. I shall not say that we have been governed badly by them. I would rather say that we have been governed very well by them. But I want to add that no matter how well we have been governed by them, this government of the Filipinos must be better than any government we ever had in our country. *[Applause.]* Otherwise, there would be no use of having that government placed in our hands; otherwise the sacrifices our people in the past made with a view to winning freedom for us, would be sacrifices made in vain. A government better than we have ever had—that, regardless of any other consideration, I am determined to make this government which you have entrusted to my care; a government that will not only give you satisfaction but will also cause every living Filipino to feel proud of his country, proud of himself. *[Applause.]*

I cannot, however, give you even a relatively good government by myself alone. I might work twenty-four hours every day, kill myself working, but I would not be able to do it alone. In order that I may accomplish my purpose, I must have the cooperation of all the officials of the National Government as well as all the officials of the provincial and municipal governments.

I want to say to all the officials of the National, provincial, and municipal governments of the Philippines, that it is not a difficult task to give the people of this country the best government they ever had. All that is necessary is that every official of this Government, from the President of the Philippines down to the last town policeman, should know that the office is not given to him for the purpose of his own personal aggrandizement or profit, nor with the idea of permitting him to abuse the powers of that office. Public office is given to a man in the interests of the people of the country. *[Applause.]* The office is not the personal possession of the man who occupies it. The office is given to a man as a trust for him to administer for the public welfare.

Since my election as President of the Philippines, there have been incidents in my relationship with some of my former political associates, personal friends, that are illuminating. Some of them came to ask me to give them Jobs. I would ask in each case, “What job can I give you?”

The answer almost invariably would be: “Anything, Mr. President.”

“Do you mean to tell me that you could handle any job that I might give? If you can, you are the most “wonderful man I have ever known.”

“Well, Mr. President, I need a job because I have a large family and I need some money to support them. I have been voting for you all these years, *[laughter]* and now that you are the President, you have the power to give me any job,” would be his reply, which meant, “I am not interested in the kind of job that you give me. I am interested only in getting the salary because I need it. *[Laughter.]*”

Now, you have been laughing, but place yourself in imposition and you will see that such an incident is not to be laughed at. You will see how tragic that situation is. Tragic for a man like me who has a heart and who is fateful, but who at the same time knows that his duty as an official of the Government rises above his personal Sections and his personal or political debts of gratitude. Imagine how sorry I must feel when a man who has helped me rise in political power, who has faithfully supported me all these years, comes to me and says, “Mr. President, now that you are where you can do something for me, perhaps not even half as much as I have done for you, can’t you give me a job? You have so many jobs at your disposal”; and I have to say to that man, “I am sorry, but you are not capable of filling a government position and I cannot give you one.” How sad that is! I know that that man, when he leaves my office, will say, “What an ingrate this man Quezon is!” Such a man cannot realize that the Government is not an institution for taking care of useless men. He does not realize that the money with which officials of the Government are paid is not my money but the people’s money. He does not realize that I cannot use that money just as I might want to; that that money is to be paid only to men who are rendering service to the Government and good service at that; that if I authorized the payment of that money as salary to men who did not deserve appointments but merely because I was grateful to them, in my conscience it would be my duty to return to the Government the money which I authorized for their salary. Now that is one case—the case of a man who wants my help to support his family.

A man would also come to me who might be a secretary of department, a member of the National Assembly, an ex-senator, an ex-representative, or a president of a provincial committee of my party, and say: "Mr. President, this man helped to keep our party in control in a certain town. Please give him a job." Or he might say, "You have to make So-and-So a justice of the peace, or a fiscal, or a judge of a court of first instance." In the latter case, perhaps I would ask, "What kind of a lawyer is he?"

"Well, he has been admitted to the bar."

"What is he doing now?"

"Practising law."

"Is he making any money?"

"No, he has no clients, and that is just the reason I want to get him a job." [*Laughter.*]

"Well, you realize that if a lawyer has no clients he is a pretty poor lawyer. [*Laughter.*] If he is too poor a lawyer to take care of cases for private individuals, how can he even aspire to occupy a position in the Government which involves greater responsibilities and therefore requires higher capacities than those required of an ordinary lawyer?"

"But I am told that you have given another man an appointment because he is a strong leader and has great influence, and if you do not give this fellow an appointment, too, he will be disgusted and we will surely lose in the next elections in that town or province."

I then would have to tell that man, "I am sorry, I cannot appoint him. It makes no difference whether we lose that municipality or lose that province; I will not make an appointment that is not based on merit."

This man who might be an old friend or political associate of mine, would leave my office saying to himself. "The President is not a god anymore to go to for help. He is a political ingrate." But as a matter of fact, when I refuse to make an appointment because it should not be made, I am giving the best evidence that I am politically a fateful man. Why? For two reasons: (1) Because I have taken for granted, and I have the right to take it for granted, that those men who supported me in the past, have supported me because they believed that I was a worthy Public servant; (2) Because my debt of gratitude, while it includes those individuals who have voted for me and forked for me, is primarily to the great mass of the voters who themselves elected me. [*Applause.*] I say it again, therefore, that I am showing political gratitude to the man who has been supporting me, by showing him that he did not make any mistake in working for me for I am doing my duty; and I am showing my gratitude to the electorate by living up to their expectations. If there has been a man or a group of men who have supported me all these years with the idea that once I was in power I would turn the Government over to them, they are mistaken.

You have heard it said, I suppose with your own ears, during the campaign that the rich people in the Philippines contributed to my election, and it is on that account that some say I am "the President of the rich." It is true that there were rich men who contributed to my campaign expenses, but I am sure that the men who so contributed did not do so with the idea that Manuel L. Quezon, once elected, would be a tool in their hands. Those men have known me for many years and are personal friends of mine, and know that nobody can control me. [*Laughter.*] Therefore, when they contributed to my campaign funds they contributed simply because they believed I would perform my duties right and well.

Now, my friends, I am not the President of the rich, and I am not the President of the poor either. I am the President of the Philippines, of the Filipino people, rich and poor alike. That means that it is my duty to give justice to all, whether rich or poor, and that I must perform my duties fearlessly, regardless of whether in so doing I incur the displeasure of the rich or the poor. [*Applause.*]

I will go back to what I was trying to say, that all this cannot be done by me alone. I need the help of every official of this Government. Any official of the Government, whether National, provincial, or municipal, who in his own conscience knows that he is not a good official should resign. [Applause.] We do not have to be told by our people whether we are good or bad officials—we know it right in our hearts. The man who is lazy and does not want to work, the man who is incompetent and does not know how to work, and the man who is a grafter and wants to steal, ought to get out of the Government. The sooner they do so, the sooner will they for once be rendering a great and patriotic service. Those who love to work, who know the job that is entrusted to them, and who are absolutely honest and honorable, let them remain in their offices and tackle their duties twice or three times as hard as heretofore. Let them learn better ways of doing their work, and let them always be as honest as the angels in heaven, for thus only will they be rendering a service to our people and to our government. [Applause.]

Every officer in the Government can now render his country a patriotic service by helping to put out those men who are not good and retaining only those who are efficient in the service. Let me say this so that the humblest Filipino official may realize that he is very important in the service of his country. Let me say that the importance of the work that a man is doing is not to be measured by the importance of the position that he is holding. The credit that a man should receive from the work that he is doing is not to be measured by the position that he is occupying.

That you may realize this for yourself, I will cite a few illustrations. Imagine a municipal policeman patrolling the streets at midnight, who sees a man trying to assault a woman. That policeman risks perhaps his own life to save the woman from outrage. Tell me, is not that modest Policeman rendering a greater service to his country than a provincial governor who spends his days playing poker? [Applause.] A Constabulary soldier who goes with his company into the Sierra Madres in an effort to clear a province of banditry, exposes his own life for the peace and safety of the inhabitants. Will anybody say that the service of that poor Constabulary soldier is not as important, if not more important, than that of a general who may not be doing anything except enjoying a good time? Of course when everybody is doing his duty, the man at the top, who has the greater responsibility, does not have to attend to the smaller details and is enabled to devote his title to the more important functions of the government.

The point I want to make clear is this: Every official of the government, even the most modest, has a job to perform and is as much in duty bound to perform that job well as those occupying higher positions. In our effort to give the people the best government that there is, we have to have everybody do his job, including the clerk, the policeman—everybody in the service. Every one of them should do his best because a government cannot be a government of higher officials only. The Government of the Philippines is the government of all the officials of the Government; it is the Government of all the Filipinos. Therefore, when it can be said that we have the best government on earth, the municipal police, the higher officials—everybody—should feel honored and proud because that would mean that all of them have been working hard in order to give this country such a Government. That is the cooperation I need from all the officials of the Government. If they give me that cooperation, I am sure we will not go a long way to achieve our ideal.

But that is not enough. The people in general must cooperate with the Government in order that we may have the best Government on earth. Remember that a government is established for your own good. The Government that we now have in the Philippines is no longer a government that will enslave our people as has been the case sometime in the past. No longer can any official in this Government do what in former years under the Spanish regime he was permitted to do. This is a government of laws, and no man can abuse the powers that are in his hands without being called to account either before the courts or by the higher administrative officers of the Government. Therefore, if you want to have a good government, you must cooperate with the Government. The first thing that you have to do is to abide by the laws, to be law-abiding citizens, to be peaceful and respectful of other people's rights. Even if we had the best officials to handle the affairs of our country, what good would that be if the people themselves start disturbing public order, making trouble, or starting an uprising?

Of course I want to tell you that if there are any uprising here while I am President, there will be plenty of trouble, for I am not going to tolerate any such thing. But it makes little difference how I would handle a movement of that sort. If there were any attempt at public disorder, that alone would discredit our Government. Therefore, the people must be peaceful and law-abiding.

Above all, you must get out of your mind the idea that more of self-government and independence means lower taxes and more public improvements. Get that out of your mind right now—that idea of lower taxes and more public improvements. It seems that there are some people who think that freedom means no taxes. As a matter of fact, freedom and better government must mean more taxes. You cannot make public improvements without money and that money does not come from heaven. That comes from the people. The idea of every province asking the President, “Give us money to build this road and that building!” Where do you think I would get that money? I can only get it from the taxes paid by the people. Therefore, if you have to pay an income tax, do so. You should remember that you are lucky, fortunate, that you have to pay an income tax because that means you have an income. Your Poor compatriots who do not have to pay an income tax are not so lucky because men who do not pay taxes have hardly any property. So with those who have to pay land taxes. They must pay land taxes. The land tax is spent for public schools, for roads, and the people of every municipality are the beneficiaries of that tax. You must remember that the majority of the people do not have land to pay taxes on. They are unfortunate already in not having such property. Their children would not have the benefit of education, unless those who are more fortunate pay their taxes to support the education of those children. So please pay your taxes.

Let me tell you what I am going to do if you do not pay your taxes. If in the future the people do not pay their land taxes I am going to take their land, as is provided by law, and divide it among the poor. [Applause.] Now do not forget that, because I am not joking. [Applause.] At least, one very good thing would be achieved. The result would be that there would be more people owning land in our country. So those who have land taxes to pay and are delinquent, I am going to give a little time to arrange their affairs so that they can pay. There will be no more condonation. The Government will confiscate all those lands upon which the taxes are not paid and give them to the poor people of the country, to be divided among them. [Applause.] You know that up to this time it has been easy for some people not to pay their land taxes, because, under the law, the land is taken by the municipal treasurer or the provincial treasurer, and one of two things happens. It is either sold at public auction or it is retained by the Government. If the land is sold to someone, only one is benefited, and the man who has lost his land becomes an enemy of the Government. If the land stays with the treasurer, the land produces nothing and lies idle. The result of this situation is that the members of the Legislature have to pass a law returning the land to the former owner condoning the tax, because of the serious social problem created. But unless landowners pay their taxes more willingly, I am going to recommend to the Legislature that lands on which the taxes are not paid be taken over by the Government and distributed among the poor. Then it would make no difference whether the owners get mad because, while one or two men might get disgruntled, many more would be made happy.

We have got to do that, for if we don’t, we have to give up our hope to become a great people. Self-government means the right to govern one’s self. Independence means the right to have one’s own nation. The man who wants to get married is like the nation that wants to be independent. A man who wants to get married must be able to support his wife and children. I know that there are exceptions. There are those who want to get married and expect their parents to support them. But such men ought to be whipped. [Laughter.] You do not want to admit that the Filipino people need to be whipped.

Speaking again very seriously, I want to tell you, my countrymen, that if we want to be a free country, if we want the Filipino people to be considered a progressive people, if we want to be respected by other nations, if we want to be able to raise our heads in the presence of anybody and consider ourselves their equals, if not superior, [applause] it is necessary for us to make sacrifices, sacrifices of fortune, and if necessary of life, so that those coming after us may live a life worthy of men, free men and free women. [Applause.]

The independence that is worth having does not only demand of everyone of you that you pay your taxes. It also demands service. It demands that every young man should undergo military training so that if the time ever comes, he will be able to defend his country with intelligence and courage. [Applause.] I know there are people who say this is a return to the Spanish times, to the “quintos” system. But what a big mistake to compare our program of national defense to the Spanish “quintos” system! Under that Spanish system, only one man out of every five and only the poor man was taken to serve as a soldier. The son of the rich, the son of the influential, was free. And under the Spanish “quintos” system, the Filipino soldier was asked to fight for what? For his flag? For his country? For his people? No, my countrymen, for the Spanish flag, for Spain, not for the Philippines! [Applause.]

Under our national defense program, every young man who is of age whether he be the son of a rich father, the son of a poor man, or even the son of the President of the Philippines will be compelled to undergo military training. *[Applause]* And why is he compelled to undergo military training? In order to fight for what flag? For his flag, for his country, for his people. He will be trained to fight so that no nation will ever come to the Philippines to take our wives, our sweethearts, our possessions, and enslave us again, without first having to fight the whole country and kill every inhabitant. Is there any young man who would dare tell me that he refuses to take that military training which is necessary in order to be able to defend his country with his life, if the call should come? *[Shouts of "No!" from the crowd.]*

I want to tell you, young men, I am not asking anything of you that I, myself, have not already done. As a matter of fact, I am not asking from you a hundredth part of what I myself have done. I am asking you to undergo military training for a few months each year for a limited number of years. You will be taken for training in places where there are barracks, good food and good shelter. It is true that you will have to do some hard work, but look at the benefits that you will get therefrom. First, everyone of you will learn how to use a gun effectively. That means that in case of a fight you have at least an equal chance with the fellow who is fighting you, an equal chance to kill him first. Then you will learn discipline, which is a great thing. You will be "hardened up," you will be stronger, after you have been in the Army. *[Laughter.]* You know that is your luck! You know what mine was? I was for two years in the field. I was not put up in any military barracks. We roved the mountains barefooted; sleeping many a night in the mud and without shelter. There was no one to prepare our food and many a time we had nothing to eat but guavas. I finally fell sick with malaria from the effects of which I suffered for ten years. But I did not get anything out of it. I did not even become a good soldier. Nobody taught me to handle my rifle—and the rifle was terrible, old, and with poor ammunition. I could not have hit anybody 500 yards from me. There was no equal chance for us in the fight with the American soldiers. The time came when our best defense was our legs! For two years I had to undergo all kinds of hardships, nights without sleep, days without food, with no place to rest in—all this in the service of our common country. Will you, my dear young men, do less for your country than I and many others did? Of course, I know your answer. I know that every young fellow will tell me, "Mr. President, I will be proud, not only glad, to undergo military training, so that I may write my name in the history of my country as a patriot." *[Applause.]*

Young men of the Philippines, our work is done, we are about to render our last tribute to our country. We shall have to leave the work in your hands. You alone can bring success to our efforts. It is now in your care, the whole future of our country, for generations to come. We are not ashamed to appear before you, for we have carried on the work so nobly began by our fathers. Now we are turning it over to you and you must take it in your hands. Give our country the assurance that as we have carried on this work with a measure of success so far, you will carry it even farther. *[Long applause.]*

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon to the people of San Pablo, February 28, 1936

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

GREETING THE PEOPLE OF SAN PABLO

[Delivered at San Pablo, Isabela, February 28, 1936]

Mr. President, People of San Pablo:

I have never found in all my life people more enthusiastic than you. You have been waiting here all morning in this terrible heat and still you have the good humor to say “Mabuhay!” I want to say to you that I have not been in bed either. I have been going around all the time and I am a little tired. I am suffering almost as much as you from the heat. But your enthusiasm struck me, and I am just as ready to say in return to your “Mabuhay si Quezon!” “Mabuhay San Pablo!” [*Cries of “Mabuhay!” from the crowd.*] I regret I cannot stay here for the afternoon and I think you had better go home. I am just going to say I am very happy to have met you. Thank you. Goodbye.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Address of President Quezon on Virtue of Military Service, February 29, 1936

**Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Virtue of Military Service**

[Delivered before Constabulary Soldiers at Tuguegarao, Cagayan,
February 29, 1936]

To the Constabulary Soldiers at the Tuguegarao Barracks:

I am greatly pleased with your showing. Before I leave I want to say a few words.

I hope that every Constabulary soldier will feel the importance of his work. You are the agents of law. You are in fact the representatives of the President of the Philippines wherever you are in the performance of your duties, in the enforcement of the law, and in the maintenance of peace and order. I hope that every one of you will so conduct himself all the time that the people will look upon you as the protectors of their rights, the defenders of their homes. You have to be gentlemen all the time in your dealings with the people. I want you to win both the respect and the affection of the citizens of our country. As the officers and soldiers of the Philippine Army conduct themselves, so will the people have a good or bad idea of the government that they have. So please remember that all the time. I want you to honor your uniform. Our Government is a poor government and therefore it cannot pay you perhaps as well as other governments, although compared with Japan, we are paying our soldiers and officers better. If the Government could afford it and your work justified it, you would be paid better salaries, so keep on doing your jobs well and better as though you were getting two or three times more. Yours is an honorable profession. I want you to know that I am deeply interested in your work and will depend on each and every one of you. I want the officers of the organization to take good care of your health and well-being. Get the best food you can, and take care of yourselves. This is a place where there is malaria. I have asked the health officer to make frequent visits to your posts.

Take care of your soldiers, Captain. Stay with these fellows. I want to say that I know I can depend on the Constabulary organization.

You should also periodically inspect the policemen. Make it a point to improve the conditions of the municipal police, but above all, keep these boys on the job always.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon before the Constabulary Soldiers Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before the Constabulary Soldiers**

[Delivered in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, February 29, 1936]

VIRTUE OF MILITARY SERVICE

To the Constabulary Soldiers at the Tuguegarao Barracks:

I am greatly pleased with your showing. Before I leave I want to say a few words.

I hope that every Constabulary soldier will feel the importance of his work. You are the agents of law. You are in fact the representatives of the president of the Philippines wherever you are in the performance of your duties, in the enforcement of the law, and in the maintenance of peace and order. I hope that every one of you will so conduct himself all the time that the people will look upon you as the protectors of their rights, the defenders of their homes. You have to be gentlemen all the time in your dealings with the people. I want you to win both the respect and the affection of the citizens of our country. As the officers and soldiers of the Philippine Army conduct themselves, so will the people have a good or bad idea of the government that they have. So please remember that all the time. I want you to honor your uniform. Our Government is a poor government and therefore it cannot pay you perhaps as well as other governments, although compared with Japan, we are paying our soldiers and officers better. If the Government could afford it and your work justified it, you would be paid better salaries, so keep on doing your jobs well and better as though you were getting two or three times more. Yours is an honorable profession. I want you to know that I am deeply interested in your work and will depend on each and everyone of you. I want the officers of the organization to take good care of your health and well-being. Get the best food you can, and take care of yourselves. This is a place where there is malaria. I have asked the health officer to make frequent visits to your posts.

Take care of your soldiers, Captain. Stay with these fellows: I want to say that I know I can depend on the Constabulary organization.

You should also periodically inspect the policemen. Make it a point to improve the conditions of the municipal police, but above all, keep these boys on the job always.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Address of President Quezon on an Honest and Efficient Judiciary, March 28, 1936

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

AN HONEST AND EFFICIENT JUDICIARY

[Delivered before the Faculty and Students of the University of
Santo Tomas at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila,
upon Receiving the Degree of Doctor of Laws,
Honoris Causa, March 28, 1936.]

Most Reverend Father Rector, Professors and Students of the University of Santo Tomas, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Never before have I realized as painfully as I do now how limited is my ability to express my feelings. Words fail me to describe my deep emotions at this hour. Every noble sentiment in me has been stirred up by the generous act of my Alma Mater in conferring upon me the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*. To be granted this academic title by such an institution of learning as the University of Santo Tomas, the oldest in our country, constitutes in itself a very high and rare distinction for which I am profoundly grateful and happy; but the fact that I receive this honor from the hands of my former professor, Father Tamayo, whom I admire, respect and love, makes this occasion doubly memorable to me. I can never thank you enough, Most Reverend Father Rector, for what you have done for me in my student days, nor can I adequately express to this great University my sincerest acknowledgment for the undeserved honor that it has bestowed upon me.

Nothing that I can say will add to the merit or glory of the service rendered by the University of Santo Tomas to my people. There is hardly a Filipino patriot in our past struggles for liberty but has received the moral and intellectual guidance of this institution. To a large measure this University has contributed to the upbuilding of the Filipino nation. It has given the country men of sterling character and great wisdom in almost every line of human endeavor. Its Law College, especially, has produced the statesmen-patriots Mabini and Marcelo H. del Pilar, of the Revolutionary days, and the great luminaries of the Bench— Arellano, Mapa, Torres, Araullo and others whose names I shall not mention for they are still living. Hence, Philippine jurisprudence has been profoundly affected by the legal philosophy of the College of Law of Santo Tomas.

The foregoing thoughts have induced me to address you this evening on the importance of the judiciary to the people and the necessity of a proper selection of judges.

It cannot be gainsaid that the success of an enlightened government depends to a large extent upon its administration of justice. In the Philippines, our Constitution ordains not only the establishment of a judicial department, coordinate, co-equal and co-important with the other two departments of the Government, but also provides for a security of tenure and compensation of judges. The declared and avowed purpose of the framers of our Constitution is to create a truly independent and impartial Judiciary which by protecting the rights and liberties of the people, may provide a firm foundation for democratic institutions in this country.

You are familiar with the tripartite division of the Powers of government. In the allocation of these powers among the three departments, however, our Constitution has not laid down inflexible rules. It adopted the system of checks and balances which has given rise to difficulties in the delimitation of the powers granted. Functions will be found to interlace and overlap each other. The judiciary, with the Supreme Court as the final arbiter, is the only constitutional

mechanism authorized to determine and adjust in appropriate cases, the relationship between the different branches of the Government. The judiciary occupies the position of regulator to curb the excesses and temper the vehemence of the executive and legislative departments. Our Supreme Court is invested with the tremendous power to annul not only laws passed by the National Assembly, but also acts of the Chief Executive which contravene the fundamental law. Undoubtedly, this power will be invoked during the formative period of the Commonwealth Government, more frequently perhaps than at any other time. We cannot but trust that the judiciary will be guided by what I may term the canons of judicial self-restraint and that it will be slow in setting aside a law or an executive decree. But we can expect that when the great precepts embodied in our Constitution are violated or imperiled, the judiciary will perform its sacred duty assigned to it by the people, fearlessly and relentlessly.

Endowed as the judiciary is with the destructive power to declare laws and executive orders unconstitutional, notwithstanding the fact that it is the only ultimate constitutional organ devoid of direct popular sanction, it is almost superfluous to say that utmost care should be observed in the choice of the men called upon to exercise that power. And in the task of establishing an independent and impartial judiciary, the burden of responsibility is mainly thrown upon the Chief Executive because under the Constitution he is the appointing power.

I have endeavored and will always endeavor to appoint to the judiciary only men of proven ability, learning, and character, conscious of the fact that the usefulness of the judiciary is dependent upon the faith reposed upon it by the people, and that this faith turn depends upon the quality of the judges. Without popular faith in the administration of justice no democratic government can long endure.

Of course the great bulk of the population never come into contact with the courts of justice. Yet, to no department of the Government should every citizen be more exacting in the demand that only the best be chosen. Given a corrupt and incompetent judiciary, the average citizen will live in constant danger of financial loss, moral outrage, and Physical harm at the hands of those who are thus enabled to violate the law with impunity. He will feel helpless and insecure even against the agencies devised by law for his very protection. He always stands to lose in the eternal conflict between liberty and authority, for without an ever-vigilant judiciary to impose restrictions upon government action against individual liberties, the bill of rights incorporated in our Constitution for his benefit would be meaningless. His sense of security can only be maintained if he has confidence in the efficiency and impartiality of the courts to which he may resort for the vindication of his rights and the redress of his grievances. Needless to say, without this sense of physical and material security on the part of the People, freedom and productive life would be well-nigh impossible.

The common man in our country does not ordinarily distinguish between the courts and the judges who preside over them. To him a judicial decision is not the mandate of the law but the pronouncement of men who sit in judgment over their fellow men. In the selection of the persons who are to apply the law, therefore, we must choose only those who can inspire his confidence. To merit this confidence, judges must be men of the highest integrity and unquestioned moral character, men who should at all times be courteous, kindly and considerate of other people's rights and feelings.

A judge should be incorruptible. Besides, an ideal judge should combine high technical training with vision and statesmanship. With the advance of commerce and the expansion of industry, the relations of our citizens among themselves and with aliens will become more and more intricate and complicated. New rights and obligations ushered in by social and economic progress, not foreseen contemplated by existing laws or constitutional limitations, will undoubtedly arise. And the man called upon to interpret the Organic Law will have need of a generous gift of an enlightened perspective to be able to make a proper appraisal of the situation and appreciate the needs for proper readjustment in every emergency. The time demands judicial statesmanship of the highest order.

I have touched upon the personal equation involved in the administration of justice because people generally appraise the failure or success of human institutions in terms of human rights. Not infrequently, technicalities of law or procedure defeat the ends of justice, thereby impairing the faith of our people in the efficacy of our courts as the ultimate guardian of their cherished rights and liberties. Such defects, however, can be remedied by legislation. On the other hand, the failings and weaknesses of the men who sit on the bench are subject to no similar control. The constitutional provision which secures the tenure of our judges, designed to preserve the paramount independence of the judiciary, affords no remedy against the continuance in office of men with antiquated ideas and fossilized

viewpoints inimical to the very existence of a progressive social order, so long as they observe “good behaviour”. Herein again lies the necessity of careful deliberation in the selection of our judges.

There is another factor which should not be overlooked. We are at present engaged in the task of laying the foundations of a new government. The structure that we are building may not be commanding in its presence and contours, but it should be solid and lasting. Nowhere should we devote more painstaking attention than in the erection of the judicial pillars, not only because the administration of justice is the test of good government, but also because it has been the practice among Occidental nations to deny to courts in some Oriental countries, the right to sit in judgment over foreigners and their interests. If during the Commonwealth period we fail to establish a strong and efficient judiciary, we might be menaced in the future, when we shall have become independent, with serious attempts on the part of other countries to claim extra-territoriality for their nationals. Were this to occur, the eternal condemnation of posterity would fall upon those responsible for such a state of affairs.

I am sure I can show in no better way my appreciation of the honor that my Alma Mater has conferred upon me than by reiterating on this solemn occasion my pledge to raise our judiciary to such a plane as will assure to every litigant honest, impartial, and sympathetic administration of justice—a judiciary as exemplified in the life, character and intellectual gifts of Arellano, Mapa, Torres, Araullo and our present revered Chief Justice, respected by citizens and foreigners alike, one that will withstand the fluctuating winds of popular passion, and securely lodged in the confidence of our people.

I thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Economic Planning and Progress, March 30, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Economic Planning and Progress**

[Delivered at the First Meeting of the National Economic Council
at Malacañan Palace, Manila, March 30, 1936]

Mr. Secretary Alas, Gentlemen of the Economic Council:

The National Economic Council has a rôle to play in the affairs of our country next in importance only, if not equal, to that of the Cabinet itself. I congratulate you, therefore, upon your appointment as members of this Council and beg to extend to you, in behalf of the Government, my most sincere thanks for your willingness serve the country, at a sacrifice of your valuable time, without pay.

The creation of this National Economic Council answers an urgent national need and formally commits this Government to a definite economic policy. We don't believe in the economic philosophy of "laissez faire." We favor government leadership in production activities. We believe in planning the national economy. The world has learned at a cost of untold economic waste and human suffering, after submitting to a very severe test the very foundations of the social order our civilization has created and erected, that governments cannot allow unlimited free rein to private enterprise without jeopardizing the public welfare in the interest of human greed.

Though the Filipino people, being a new nation with its economic development still in its formative stage, has been fortunately free from the ravages of a destructive industrial and economic competition which has been the lot of the more advanced nations, we have, however, kept our eyes open and have learned from the grim experience of others. The framers of our Constitution, seeing that the efforts of other governments to regulate the play of economic forces and when necessary to take part in the industrial development of the nation—all in the interest of and for the promotion of the public weal—have been thwarted by constitutional limitations intended for an age and an economic order long out of existence, saw to it that the Constitution of the Philippines left no doubt as to what our Government might do in this respect. And so section 6 of Article XII provides that "the State may, in the interest of national welfare and defense, establish and operate industries and means of transportation and communication, and, upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government." Again Article XIII (sections 6, 7, and 8) as well as other provisions of the Constitution, grants to the Government all the Powers that may be needed to regulate, direct and control the economic life of the nation.

In my message to the National Assembly urging the enactment of the law that would authorize and empower me to create this National Economic Council I outlined in clear, though general terms, the objectives to be sought by this Council. You are all familiar, I take it, with that message and need not, therefore, trespass upon your time reciting it. You are also informed of the Act creating the National Economic Council and the Executive Order issued in pursuance thereof.

We meet this morning, after you have been properly organized, to exchange views on the adoption of such plans as the Council in its wisdom may deem necessary or convenient to carry out the purpose of the Government in creating this Council. Every member of this Council is free to express his opinion honestly and frankly. Your counsel and advice would be of little or no value to the Government unless you felt that you are here not to follow blindly the dictates of anyone, but to contribute with your knowledge and experience on public affairs and private business to the solution of the grave economic and social questions confronting the nation. There is only one limitation to your freedom of opinion. Any one who believes in good faith, as a matter of principle, in the economic philosophy of "laissez faire," or in the inherent unfitness of a government to own and operate an industry or any business enterprise, has no place in a council created by a law and under a constitution that professes an entirely opposite theory.

I have appointed you to this Council because I have faith in your patriotism, in your ability and experience. I trust that with your counsel and advice this Government will be able to promote the development of our natural resources and direct and partake in its economic advancement in a manner that will insure the progress, the welfare. Prosperity and happiness of all the people—the rich and the poor alike.

Gentlemen, once more I congratulate and thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Effective Public Service, April 11, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Effective Public Service**

[Delivered at Davao Penal Colony, Davao, April 11, 1936]

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. and Mrs. Noroña, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In all my visits of inspection, I have never felt as happy and proud as I feel today. Almost every head of government speaks of his ideal in terms of honesty, efficiency and economy in the Government service. I dare say that this ideal is very seldom attained. The Bureau of Prisons, as shown by its work in this colony, doubtless can be properly given the credit for rendering an honest, efficient and economic service to the country. I wonder if the officials of the Bureau of Prisons, especially those who are engaged in this experiment of penal colonization, fully realize the importance of the work they are doing. You are not only rendering a great service to humanity, but you are also proving to the world that a system of penology may be established whereby the convict is to be punished and at the same time improved and made a better citizen. That is what you are doing here, and you are doubtless carrying on a great undertaking. Every convict that comes to this penal colony suffers only his loss of freedom, his loss of personal liberty, but otherwise unless he himself does something for which he is to be punished, here he is allowed to live the ordinary life of an honorable man. You are demonstrating here that the worst criminal can be controlled without force, and when I saw this morning upon my arrival here that this army of over a thousand men who have defied the law and committed all kinds of crimes are managed only by a few men, I had to admit that moral force is sometimes more effective than physical force. These are the aspects of your work here that interest humanity because they are for the benefit of humanity. As far as our new Government and our people are concerned, you are doing two things—one is saving the Government a lot of money; the other is carrying on an agricultural and industrial school that will compare favorably with the best colleges in the Philippines.

I realize that employees in other branches of the Government service are receiving bigger salaries, but knowing as I do the attitude of the National Assembly, I am afraid it would be difficult to get that body to appropriate larger amounts for your salaries. If I do not succeed in getting it to improve your financial condition, I want you at least to know, that as head of the Government I fully appreciate the work you are doing here.

Colonel Santos is worth much to the Government, and yet he is paid a salary smaller than is paid by some commercial houses to their third class responsible managers. It is the same thing with all of you, as I said before. None of you is paid the salary which, considering the importance of work that you are doing, is commensurate with what you actually are giving to the Government in return for that salary. Your salary is very meager. You are about the only employees that I know who are not consumers but producers.

There is a lot of difference between you and those employees of private companies, from manager down, in that you get your salary from the Government in return for your service and something else in the form of products. By God, all of you fellows are producers, and there lies the distinction. So, if the Government cannot pay you what you deserve, let me at least give you my thanks and my congratulations. You, Mr. Noroña, and all of you, boys who are working here, are performing your tasks well and faithfully.

Finally, I want to thank and congratulate also these ladies, your wives. I am sure if they had been like those women who are interested in clothes and fond of exhibiting themselves to the public, very few of you would have remained here; instead you would have preferred to be where you can go to theaters and other similar places of amusement. So, the fact that you are here and are evidently happy to work here show that you are fortunate in having excellent wives. I know that they are interested in the work that you are doing, in the substantial things in life, and the

Government owes them as much as it owes you. With that I have said everything I want to say. I am very happy and once more I say I am proud of what I have seen this day in the Penal Colony.

From Messages of the Pres. (Rev. Ed.), Vol. 2, Part I, pp. 77-79.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on good and efficient government, April 17, 1936

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines On good and efficient government

[Delivered at a Conference of Provincial and Municipal Officials at Capiz, Capiz, April 17, 1936]

I shall address the provincial and municipal officers and justices of the peace in this informal manner because this is the best way of getting each other's views. I deem it my duty on these visits to remind you of our obligation to give our country an honest, efficient and impartial government. To fulfill that obligation, the cooperation of the provincial and municipal officers is required.

The municipal presidents of this province belong, I suppose, to either of the big political parties we now have in the Philippines, and as such party members it is their duty to give to their respective municipalities the kind of government that those two big parties have pledged themselves to give in the joint platform adopted at the convention which, as you all know, was held in Manila. As party members, they have a duty toward the people contracted in behalf of the parties to which they belong; but they have, besides, a more serious and solemn obligation as officials of the Government.

I want the municipal presidents in the next few years to think and act as chief executives of their municipalities rather than as chiefs of a political faction in the same. What I am saying of the municipal presidents I also say of the provincial officers.

As chief of the nation, I am endeavoring to act not as chief of my party but as chief of the Government. My conscience does not accuse me of having as yet done anything under the influence of party considerations. In all I have done I have acted as chief of the Government, without any consideration other than that of the common interest. I am not saying that because I claim to be infallible. It is quite possible that I have made mistakes, because I am human, and to err is natural in man. But I wish to show you that my mind is guided and my acts are prompted by a determination to act as a man of the Government and not as chief of a party, and to strive for the common good and not for that of a group. I must, therefore, demand of the provincial governors and municipal presidents that they act in the same manner.

To the justices of the peace I would say that they must follow the rule of conduct and be imbued with the spirit of government to which I have made reference. From now on, justices of the peace must be justices of the peace and nothing else. The time when justices of the peace could be the tools of any person is past. Any justice of the peace who does not feel that he is sufficiently strong to decide himself independent of the whole world had better get ready to quit his post right now, because he is liable to lose it in a way not creditable to himself.

My policy with reference to the justices of the peace will be to retain the old justices in the service even though they are not lawyers. There was some doubt in the minds of a few persons whether our present Constitution allows the President to retain in the service justices of the peace who are not lawyers. I had a part in the drafting of the Constitution and had something to do with the language used in it, and for that reason I am sure that it was the intention of the Constitutional Convention to retain in the service, and allow the President to retain, those old justice of the peace who are not lawyers. Speaker Roxas, who was one of those who took a most active part in the preparation of our Constitution, fully agrees with me that such was the intent and spirit on which the proviso on Justices of the peace was based.

I do not believe that any doubt on that intention exists on the part of the Secretary of Justice and the Supreme Court. A person who is not a lawyer cannot be commissioned as justice of the peace; but the present justices of the peace can be retained in their posts even though they are not lawyers.

I now say to the justices of the peace: I shall retain any justice of the peace whose record warrants his being retained in office. But any justice of the peace whose record has some blemish will not be retained.

Justices of the peace must eschew politics completely. You know, and I know, that all justices of the peace of the Philippines used to be leaders in politics and I am willing to take this fact into consideration. That is a thing of which we all were guilty. I shall not punish the justices who were political leaders with my knowledge and consent when I was President of the Senate. As it was then not my duty to enforce the law, I was glad if there was a justice of the peace willing to help my candidate.

However, I am going to tell you something that happened in my province which shows my policy at that time.

In a political contest not many years ago, there were a Nacionalista candidate and a Democrata candidate. The Democrata candidate was very strong; he was Godofredo Reyes. His Nacionalista opponent was weak and hardly polled any votes in the various municipalities during the election. The Nacionalistas made use of all the power of the Government to assist the Nacionalista candidate. One day the leaders of the Nacionalista candidate came to me with the request that I demand the removal of the justice of the peace of Tiaong. "Why?" I asked. "Because he has gone into politics. He is helping Godofredo Reyes. There are 16 municipalities and 15 justices are helping San Agustin," they answered.

Then I told them that if I asked for the removal of the justice of the peace of Tiaong I would also ask for the removal of all the other justices of the peace mentioned. Why? Because it would have been right to be tolerant with the justices who favored our candidate and punish one who did not, solely because of his political activities.

I am not willing now to tolerate what I have tolerated in the past. That thing must not happen again. I want to tell you that if any justice of the peace meddles in politics in an election I shall immediately take action against him.

In the municipalities, the justice of the peace is the only man whom the Government has to administer justice among the poor or between the poor and the rich. The poor often cannot afford to appeal their cases to the Court of First Instance, and for that reason, the decision of the justice of the peace is final as far as they are concerned. The justice of the peace court is in many cases the only court of justice for the poor man. If he has no confidence in the justice of the peace of his municipality, he will not have any faith in the courts of justice, though the judge of the Court of First Instance of his province be a great judge. He will not have any faith because he has not the means to take his case to the Court of First Instance.

I am striving to convince the people that in the Philippines the poor man receives justice from our Government the same as the man of means. The poor will not believe that until they are convinced that the justice of the peace is not under anybody's influence and does not take improper orders from any one, and that he is capable of administering justice to the highest and to the lowest in the social order in his municipality. I do not want our people to believe that when a public official is the friend or relative of a person or belongs to the same party, he cannot do anything against that friend, relative or fellow-partisan.

In order to inspire confidence, the justice of the peace must show that he is not interested in politics. In making appointments, I shall avoid commissioning any one as justice of the peace of the municipality in which he was born. However, if an old justice of the peace has for many years been a good justice in the municipality in which he was born, I shall not be unjust to him but shall allow him to continue in office. But in all other cases, my justice of the peace appointments will go to men not from the municipalities in which they are to perform the duties of justices of the peace, in order that their relationship or the interests they may have created in the municipality may not be an obstacle to the free and impartial performance of their duties. It is not only necessary to administer justice impartially but also to be in such a position that the people see that justice is being so administered. I, therefore, beg the justices of the peace to endeavor henceforth to give their office that dignity and prestige which it should have. The position of justice of the peace, although modest, is nevertheless one that is independent from all others in the Government.

I want to ask any justice of the peace now listening to me whether it does not raise him in his own estimation to realize that he is independent even of the President of the Philippines in deciding cases that come before him. That realization exalts the office as well as the individual. The conviction that no one has a right to tell you how you must decide a case submitted to you for judgment, and that you need not regard anyone so long as you are doing your duty, is a great thing.

Justices of the peace receive but small salaries. However, their greatest compensation—and I am saying this particularly to the lawyers who are, or are to be, justices of the peace,—is this: the thorough conviction that no one in the Philippines can compel them to do anything their conscience forbids them to do. That is the best compensation, because it reveals the dignity of the office.

As regards the other officials, I desire to say that one of their duties after they have been elected is to collect the taxes. Gentlemen, it is not proper to look for votes, promising the people that the land tax will be lowered or that it will be remitted. We must educate the people to pay their taxes. In time of peace, the only way in which they can show their patriotism is by paying their taxes to the Government. Any man who says that he is a patriot, that he loves his people and is ready to die for his country, but does not pay his taxes, is a liar and not a patriot. If he is not willing to pay his taxes to the Government, how can he be willing to die for his country?

The payment of taxes is an act of patriotism. Why? Because the taxes are used for the public benefit. When you are asked for voluntary contribution, an appeal is made to your patriotism. There is no need of asking for voluntary contributions when the legal contributions, the taxes are paid. If it is an act of patriotism to pay a voluntary contribution, how can it be anything but patriotic to pay the contributions imposed by law? It is, no doubt, an act of Patriotism. By paying taxes, the citizen helps his country. and with those taxes schools are established by which the young generation is benefited, and roads are built which benefit everybody.

What is an act of patriotism? Any act performed for the benefit of the community. There are persons who believe that taxes are a burden proper of slaves. You must know that there is a difference between taxes and tributes. Formerly, under the Spanish government, taxes were called *tributo* in the Philippines, and they were actually a tribute because a part of them went to Spain. They were a tribute paid to the sovereign.

What is a *contribution*? What does *contribuir* mean? To give one's share for a general purpose. We have to pay our *contribuciones*, our taxes. We must get rid of the idea that the Insular Government should pay the expense of maintaining the provinces and municipalities, even though these fail to do anything on their part. Such an idea implies a lack of public pride.

I am not one of those who believe that people in the Philippines are not paying their taxes because they cannot pay them. That is not true. Do you believe it is true? What often happens is that when the treasurer demands payment of the taxes, the people have not the money because they have spent the money they had for things that were not very necessary and for other improper purposes.

I believe in a man living within his means. There is a great difference between spending your money to live and dress according to your means, and spending it to live and dress beyond your means. Any one who spends his money eating and dressing beyond his means has no right to be independent.

The first duty of a man, after using his money for the necessities of life, for food and raiment, is to pay his taxes to the Government. But not many of us do that. Generally, we spend our money on luxuries that we have set our heart upon, but which are not warranted by our means, and there are persons who spend money beyond their means. Every fiesta is a pretext for spending the money we have. At Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's we kill pigs and cows and feed half the village. What need is there for this? A taxpayer spends all his money on useless things, and when the municipal treasurer comes to collect the taxes, that same taxpayer says he has not any money. He has spent it foolishly or lost it in the cockpit. On the day when he sold the products of his labor, he went to the cockpit and lost all he had earned. If, before going to the cockpit and before giving the parties which he gave (his saint's day, his daughter's wedding, and the wedding of his niece) he had laid aside the parties of his income necessary to pay his taxes, he would not have found himself short of money wherewith to pay his taxes.

“Our country above all,” we are wont to say, especially when we are making speeches. But how disgusted we are when they come to collect the taxes which we owe to the Government! Does that look as if our country came first with us?

A people that is not ready to support its government is not entitled to independence. It is not possible to have self-government if the citizen does not pay his taxes to the state, just as a man with any sense of shame would not ask a woman in marriage unless he had a home of his own. Only a man able to support a family should dare ask a woman to marry him. A son dependent upon his father for support has no right to establish a home of his own. Individual liberty is based on the capacity to support one's self. A man unable to support himself is a slave, though he may not want to be one. It is foolish to speak of independence, of liberty, if one cannot maintain that independence, that liberty.

The same is true of countries. We have to support ourselves. Do you know whom we cheat when we do not pay our taxes? Ourselves, our own people. There is an idea that the people and the Government are two distinct and separate things. That is a mistake. In a self-governing country, the government is of the people, the government has been created by the people, by means of the constitution. The government is, therefore, ours; it has been created by and for us. We have created it to serve the interests of the people, our interests, and that government needs to have every citizen contribute his share to the State, in the form of taxes, to serve the interests of the people.

Finally, I recommend that we do not use the authority vested in us in a wrong way, because that authority has been conferred upon us for use in the service of the community.

That is all I have to say to the public officials.

Let us endeavor to have the best government that we can make, a government that will be an honor to us and worthy of our people. The citizen must remember that his obligations toward this Government have increased and not diminished. If it was his duty to obey the law before, it is now doubly his duty to obey it. If it was his duty to cooperate with the Government before, it is now doubly his duty to so cooperate. This is his government, he supports it with all his heart so that it may be a success. Let us cooperate with each other. The officers of the provincial and municipal governments, that form Philippine Government, must show to the provinces and the municipalities that they are working for the best interests of the community. Without the cooperation of the citizens of the provinces and municipalities, the officers of the same could not do anything because that cooperation is necessary and constitutes a duty, and at the same time, a right.

If anyone among you has anything to say, I am ready to listen. If there are any complaints, they had better be submitted in writing in order that the proper investigation may be made. If you wish to say anything with reference to the Government, I am ready to hear you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on Changes in Government and Political Philosophy, May 22, 1936 Speech
of**

**His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Changes in Government and Political Philosophy**

[Delivered at the Senior Teachers' Assembly, Teachers' Camp, Baguio, May 22, 1936]

Mr. Vice-President, Dr. Bewley, Ladies and Gentlemen:

People have different philosophies of life. Some believe that life should be a constant struggle,—work. Others believe that life should be a continuous dissipation. My own philosophy of life is both. I believe in working and in having a good time. You will see how I always combine duty with pleasure. Therefore, you will have to excuse me if I appear before you in this attire, in sweater and knickers. I thought, before coming and doing the pleasant duty of extending my greetings to you, I would take a little time playing golf.

It is my purpose to speak to you today on the changes that have taken place in our country, not only in its government but also in its political philosophy. On the 15th of November last we inaugurated a new government in the Philippine Islands—a government which for the first time in the history of our people may properly be termed a government of our own, not only because the officials of that government are native Filipinos in each of its three departments, but also because the Constitution of that government was framed and adopted by representatives of our people and approved by the people themselves by a practically unanimous vote. This change means much more than the mere occupation by a Filipino of that historical place called Malacañan. It means much more than the assumption of the highest executive power by a native of this country, at the behest of his own people. It means primarily the assumption by us of the responsibilities of self-government. Except on matters affecting our foreign affairs over which, as you all know, the Government of the United States still retains full authority, the Government of the Commonwealth is free to adopt such policies as will in its judgment promote the best interest of our people, and the Constitution has given that Government all the powers necessary to accomplish this purpose. Every Filipino citizen owes loyalty to this Government not only as his legal duty for living under it, but also as one who must abide by its laws, and respect the authorities constituted under those laws. That loyalty, besides, is his legal and moral obligation born of the fact that he has taken part in the preparation and adoption of the Constitution which now constitutes the fundamental law of the land, and in the election of the authorities vested with powers under that Constitution. It was, of course, our duty under the previous government established here, to give our cooperation and support, to obey its decrees, and abide by its decisions; but that was largely a legal obligation only, for, after all, it was a government imposed upon us and not a government of our own choosing.

I want you to know the difference between your duties and my duties now toward this Government, and our duties to the previous Government we have replaced. This present Government is quite different from the previous one in what I have already mentioned as its political philosophy, and I want to make this the main point of my remarks this morning. I think that the Congress of the United States, and the Americans also in the Philippine Islands, have carried out to the best of their ability the policies of the sovereign nation here since the American occupation of the Philippines. I guess all of them have thought that with American training in our schools, American leadership not only in the Government, but even in business; and after long years of association between the United States and the Philippines, all we can do is imitate when the time came for us to establish our own government—imitate or copy, not only the form, but also the fundamental theories, of the American Government.

Fortunately for us, in the Independence Law only one condition is imposed by the Congress of the United States as to the form of government we are to establish here; namely, that it shall be republican. We have, therefore established a republican government, for our Constitution makes provisions not only for this Commonwealth, but also when complete independence is established. But although ours is a republican government, I dare say that the political philosophy underlying the Constitution of the United States is quite different from the basic political Philosophy of the Philippine Constitution. The political Philosophy of the American Constitution is to be found in the Declaration of Independence, the document in which was expressed to the world the theories and ideals of government as conceived by the spokesmen of the American People; and while there were two philosophies—one

represented by Hamilton and the other by Jefferson—it may be said that in the main the philosophy of Jefferson is the Principle that has inspired the Government of the United States from the day of its inauguration up to—but I doubt if including—the administration of President Roosevelt. I only doubt, I say. Remember that I am not expressing a definite opinion there.

That philosophy places the individual above every other consideration. His inalienable right to life, property and the pursuit of happiness is the main objective of government as interpreted by the framers of the American Constitution.

The Constitution of the Philippines entirely reverses this Political philosophy. Under our Constitution what is paramount is “not individuals”; it is the good of the State, not the good of the individual, that must prevail. Thus under our Constitution, it is provided in Article II, Declaration of Principles, paragraph 2: “The defense of the State is a prime duty of government, and in the fulfillment of this duty all citizens may be required by law to render personal military or civil service.”

The whole political philosophy, not alone of the Government of the Philippine Islands, but of the people of the Philippines, as well, is synthesized in that provision, and I say all the people of the Philippines because the Constitution has been directly voted upon and approved by our people. In line with that philosophy, the platform of the two coalesced parties, which succeeded in electing their candidates for the posts of President and Vice-President, and the acceptance speech of the candidate to the Presidency, place the utmost emphasis upon the duty of the State to mould the spirit of our youth in patriotism and self-sacrifice. You who are engaged in bringing up that youth cannot escape that duty.

Here is what the Constitution says in that respect: “All educational institutions shall be under the supervision of and subject to regulation by the State.” Not only the public educational institutions, but the private educational institutions as well, shall be under the supervision of, and subject to regulation by, the State. That is as clear as any government can put it.

You will realize, then, the far-reaching significance of this constitutional provision. I will now tell you what I think of the theory of academic freedom, even if I already hear now the voices of those who, overjealous of such freedom, denounce as wrong the construction which I will give to that provision of the Constitution. Although I hope the time will not come, it is possible for the Government to find it necessary to use its regulatory power, and our teachers will then see that, under our Constitution, academic freedom in the Philippines imposes certain restraints, such, for instance, as that which requires that no man shall preach in this country theories and philosophies destructive of Filipino patriotism.

Should anyone attempt tomorrow to establish a school for the preaching of communism in the Philippines, our Government should right away stop it. Should anyone attempt to convert every Filipino into a Red, the Government should act without loss of time. But our schools could discuss the distances of the stars from the earth. That, of course, is absolutely out of the control of the Philippine Government and you can have all the academic freedom that you want there. [*Laughter.*] But do not forget that that provision in the Constitution which I have cited to you means certain limits to academic freedom in the Philippines, and that is regardless of whether I am charged with expounding autocratic theories here, provided, of course, I am only interpreting the mandate of the Constitution.

I am not the author of that Constitution. I have, however, taken an oath faithfully to execute its provisions, and I will say with Jefferson: “If a man takes on oath to do something that means he is going to do it in accordance with his own conception of what it means.” Having, therefore, been elected President of the Philippines to execute the Constitution, which is my plain duty to do, I am going to execute it in accordance with the construction that I Place upon its provisions.

Let us go farther. The Government shall establish and maintain a complete and adequate system of public education, and shall provide at least free public primary instruction, and citizenship training to adult citizens. All schools shall aim to develop moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, aside from inculcating vocational efficiency and the duties of citizenship.” See how that is emphasized, always.

This morning I shall not discuss how the Government of the Philippines is going to perform its constitutional task of providing free primary instruction, at least to children of school age, and citizenship training to adult citizens. I am giving Doctor Bewley as head of the Bureau of Education Doctor Palma as the Chairman of the Council of Education, and the Vice-President as Secretary of Public Instruction, all the time necessary to submit a practical plan for carrying out this constitutional obligation of the Commonwealth. I do not propose to say a word about it until I have heard from them, for they are the ones to make the proposition.

I wish to tell you that under my administration there shall not be one dead letter in the Constitution. As head of the Executive Department of the Government I cannot, as you know, interfere with the other two departments. I have no power, for instance, to boss the Legislature, nor can I, or should I, ever attempt to interfere with the work, say, of the Supreme Court. But I can assure you that every mandate of the Constitution to the Executive Department of this Government will be carried out. Time may be needed to do certain things intelligently, and I hope that the Filipino citizenry, enlightened as it is, will not be impatient but rather will realize that this Commonwealth cannot carry out its obligations in one day.

I shall go back to the subject of academic freedom. I suppose the following provision in the same section will be used by university professors to prove that I did not know what I was talking about when I said there are certain limitations to academic freedom, because it says: "Universities established by the State shall enjoy academic freedom." But I have told you how.

How very seldom men who have been elected to office like to read the platform of the party by virtue of which they have been elected, for I understand the general practice is to prepare the platform and approve it, read it aloud, make fine speeches about it during the campaign, and after that, forget it. So it is seldom that public officials read that platform, but I shall do so because I have to do so order to emphasize certain points this morning.

Public instruction.—I want to make sure that I am reading the Coalition platform, that I am not reading some one else's platform. "We shall reform the system of public education so that it may be inspired by nationalistic ideals, and consecrated to the formation of the character of the citizens and to equipping them with social and vocational efficiency, thus training them for the service of the nation." We are not considering the training of these boys and girls so that they may have a means of livelihood. No, we are training them for service. Of course, incidentally, the men or women so trained will also reap the benefit, but I am calling your attention to the fact that as far as the Government is concerned, evidently the main objective is not to train the individuals so that the individuals may be self-sufficient as it was under the American philosophy. We are training the individual so that he may better serve the nation.

And now I am going to read the next sentence which may make my friend, Doctor Bewley, and Doctor Mañalac and the rest shiver. I know President Osias is against it. But evidently, he did not have enough influence with the Platform committee to defend his stand. "We shall shorten the period of elementary instruction and we shall see to it that no child of school age shall be deprived of education." Again, here is a very difficult commitment of the party and I sincerely hope that the Bureau of Education, with the Ways and Means Committee of the National Assembly and the Secretary of Finance, will be able to give every boy and girl of school age the opportunity actually to attend school.

Now as to the other part about shortening the period of elementary instruction. I am committed to that by my platform and if a law is passed by the Assembly providing for that, I will have to approve it. But I confess that I am no expert on this, I will have to approve it. But I confess that I am no expert on this matter and that for me the only consideration is the interest of education. I am going to leave that in the hands of those who knew. In matters of this kind requiring technical knowledge political platforms are necessarily inadequate because sometimes platforms are written not precisely by men who know what they are talking about. [*Laughter*] The supposition is that they do, but there are. And so, if on any of these technical questions the platform of the Coalition Party has been wrong. I am ready to right the wrong. I am not going to stultify myself because the platform says it. But if the Assembly approves it, I am not going to veto it. If these technical men refuse to recommend it to the Assembly, I am not going to recommend it either.

Now, I am going to read that part of my speech of acceptance dealing on education:

“I stand by the educational policy enunciated in the Constitution. The principle underlying this policy is the training for useful, well-disciplined, self-sacrificing citizenship that draws its breath of life from Filipino patriotism. Our system of education should be revised so as to accomplish that aim still more effectively. The State is in duty bound to maintain a complete and adequate system of public education, providing at least free public primary instruction and citizenship training to adult citizens.

“My attention will be especially devoted to making it possible for every child to go to school. Adult citizenship training will be carried out in accordance with a broad and systematic plan. To the end that poverty may not prevent gifted young men and women from developing their talent, the Government should create the largest possible number of scholarships for them in all branches of learning. Our educational objective should fit in with our economy policy. I am for greater emphasis on vocational and agricultural training in the intermediate and high schools, but the instruction should always be in keeping with the economic conditions of each region and of the country as a whole.”

You see we said nothing about shortening the period of private instruction. I was beginning to have my doubts about it. So I left something for me to get by with. Now I think I have said enough to prove to you that under the Constitution as well as under the commitments of my administration emphasis will be placed on the formation of a courageous, upright and self-sacrificing Filipino citizenry in the schools of the Philippines. I have no doubt that you are all alive to this new aspect of your responsibility and that you are determined to do your part, which is a most important part, in the accomplishment of the purposes of our Government. I was very happy to see the teachers of Iloilo and Cebu train in the training camps there. The spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty were so evident in everything that those men did, that I consider that fine exhibition as a fair indication of the attitude of all the teachers in the Philippines today I want you to feel that you are a part of this Government that we are establishing. I want you to feel that this Government, if it succeed, will bring credit to you, to everyone of you, and that if it fail, it will be to the discredit of all of us.

Now, I do not want you to misunderstand me and think that in appealing for your support for the success of this administration, I am making a personal appeal inspired by personal ambition. After all, while the success of this Government will be also to the credit of my administration, the main credit will really go to our people, who will be the beneficiary of our achievements. So I am not speaking to you this way simply because I happen to be at the head of this Government, for I think that you yourselves realize your new responsibility to exert every effort to accomplish the purposes of this Commonwealth. I would do the same thing if General Aguinaldo or Bishop Aglipay had been elected in my place.

My friends, we have time and again spoken of the sacrifice made by our ancestors, in life and in property, in order to see the Filipino people self-governing and independent. You do not think that those ancestors of ours sacrificed only to see me installed in Malacañan or to get new jobs for Filipinos. They did it because they placed their hope in the Filipinos of the future as they saw them, and believed that when the time came for them to achieve the fruit of their labor and their sacrifice, they would prove to the world that they are really worthy of freedom and self-government, and that the powers of government would be exercised and used by them for the promotion of the best interest of the country.

Our aim will always be the welfare of the people as a whole. To attain this aim, we shall, if necessary continue to sacrifice for the common benefit. The sacrifices made in the past laid the foundations for our national life, and the people felt they had to lay those foundations. I am afraid that much more of the spirit of self-sacrifice will be required of us in the Philippines today. We are emerging into nationhood under most adverse circumstances not only from the point of view of our domestic affairs but also from the point of view of the situation abroad. It is necessary that we bear in mind constantly our objective of saving the Philippine State above all things else, and that in order to save it we must demand personal sacrifice of every man and woman of this country. If we bear in mind the underlying philosophy of our political existence, there is no reason why the Filipino people will not surmount all obstacles on their way to full nationhood. If, on the other hand, we should think of ourselves selfishly, and egotism is going to be the prevailing spirit of our people, then I am afraid we shall be doomed to disappointment.

The teachers of the Philippine Islands are the best material we have for the inculcation of the political philosophy of our nation in the mind of our youth, and I hope that everyone of you will preach that philosophy, not only in the schools where it is your plain duty under the Constitution to instill the spirit of good citizenship in our children, but also in your respective communities. For you are the army upon which we have to depend, if the ideas and ideals of our nation are to succeed. Your duty in this respect is as important, if not more so, as the duty of our Army to defend our country equally against foreign aggression and internal disturbance, and so I place my hope in my country in these two institutions: the Army on the one hand, and the schools on the other, and in order that a true spirit of cooperation may prevail between these two institutions, we are going to use the Teachers' Camp both for you, teachers, and for the Army. [*Laughter and applause.*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Quezon at the First Meeting of the National Economic Council, March 30, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the First Meeting of the National Economic Council**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, March 30, 1936]

ECONOMIC PLANNING AND PROGRESS

Mr. Secretary Alas, Gentlemen of the Economic Council:

The National Economic Council has a role to play in the affairs of our country next in importance only, if not equal to that of the Cabinet itself. I congratulate you, therefore, upon your appointment as members of this Council and beg to extend to you, in behalf of the Government, my most sincere thanks for your willingness to serve the country, at a sacrifice of your valuable time, without pay.

The creation of this National Economic Council answers an urgent national need and formally commits this Government to a definite policy. We don't believe in the economic philosophy of "laissez faire." We favor government leadership in production activities. We believe in planning the national economy. The world has learned at a cost of untold economic waste and human suffering, after submitting to a very severe test the very foundations of the social order our civilization has created and erected, that governments cannot allow unlimited free rein to private enterprise without jeopardizing the public welfare in the interest of human greed.

Though the Filipino people, being a new nation with its economic development still in its formative stage, has been fortunately free from the ravages of a destructive industrial and economic competition which has been the lot of the more advanced nations, we have, however, kept our eyes open and have learned from the grim experience of others. The framers of our Constitution, seeing that the efforts of other governments to regulate the play of economic forces and when necessary to take part in the industrial development of the nation—all in the interest of and for the promotion of the public weal—have been thwarted by constitutional limitations intended for an age and an economic order long out of existence, saw to it that the Constitution of the Philippines left no doubt as to what our Government might do in this respect. And so section 6 of Article XII provides that "the State may, in the interest of national welfare and defense, establish and operate industries and means of transportation and communication, and, upon payment of Just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government." Again Article XIII (sections 6, 7, and 8) as well as other provisions of the Constitution, grants to the Government all the powers that may be needed to regulate, direct and control the economic life of the nation.

In my message to the National Assembly urging the enactment of the law that would authorize and empower me to create this National Economic Council I outlined in clear, though general terms, the objectives to be sought by this Council. You are all familiar, I take it, with that message and need not, therefore, trespass upon your time reciting it. You are also informed of the Act creating the National Economic Council and the Executive Order issued in pursuance thereof.

We meet this morning, after you have been properly organized, to exchange views on the adoption of such plans as the Council in its wisdom may deem necessary or convenient to carry out the purpose of the Government in creating this Council. Every member of this Council is free to express his opinion honestly and frankly. Your counsel and advice would be of little or no value to the Government unless you felt that you are here not to follow blindly the

dictates of anyone, but to contribute with your knowledge and experience on public affairs and private business to the solution of the grave economic and social questions confronting the nation. There is only one limitation to your freedom of opinion. Any one who believes in good faith, as a matter of principle, in the economic philosophy of “laissez faire,” or in the inherent unfitness of a government to own and operate an industry or any business enterprise, has no place in a council created by a law and under a constitution that professes an entirely opposite theory.

I have appointed you to this Council because I have faith in your patriotism, in your ability and experience. I trust that with your counsel and advice this Government will be able to promote the development of our natural resources and direct and partake in its economic advancement in a manner that will insure the progress, the welfare, prosperity and happiness of all the people—the rich and the poor alike.

Gentlemen, once more I congratulate and thank you.

From Messages of the Pres. (Rev. Ed.), Vol. 2, Part I, pp. 74-76

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon before the Rotary Club of Manila

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines Before the Rotary Club of Manila

[Delivered on June 4, 1936]

FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT

After listening to our distinguished chairman, I fully realize the reason for his insistence that I come before you tonight. He invited me to address you, but as a matter of fact he invited me to listen to him, and I am glad that I accepted the invitation, because I have enjoyed his speech immensely. In my younger days I learned one very good lesson regarding public speaking and that was that a speaker should try to win the sympathy and goodwill of his audience. Since before me tonight there are men and women, and it is more important to win the goodwill and sympathy of women than of men, my few words will be addressed to them, and I am going to give them some very good news.

This morning we considered some of the problems of the Secretary of Finance to create new taxes and by unanimous vote it was approved to raise a tax on lipsticks. I hope that is good news for them, although it may not be good news for their husbands or their parents.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have not come before you tonight with any written speech, much less have I come with any idea of making an exhibition of my academic knowledge or oratorical ability. I have merely come to talk to you, to talk to you on governmental matters. You may not hear anything from me but commonplaces, so please do not be disappointed if you have come with other expectations. The theory upon which democracy rests is that there shall be no special qualifications required of the President and assemblymen. Anybody can be president or national assemblyman. This is because no special qualifications are required to run the government. If there are technical questions, such questions are left to be answered by technical men, and it is not necessary for any special qualifications to run a government, because a government is nothing but a human affair. It naturally deals with our everyday life, and all that is necessary, I think, to make a success in government is simply to act like a human being and decide questions as a human being.

Now, with that preliminary statement, please do not get the idea that I have come to the conclusion that to be a chief executive is a very easy matter. On the contrary, I think it is the most difficult job on earth today. In democracies, chief executives have one function that they must look after. In the Commonwealth of the Philippines the Chief Executive has at least two things to look after. One is the people of the Philippines, the other the Government of the United States. And when he tries to run a government having to bear in mind an electorate composed of Filipinos, and an American President of the United States, there is where he gets into hot water, for he is immediately confronted with two different psychologies, two different ways of looking at things. And what makes his position more difficult still is the fact that he cannot even discover what would be agreeable to the President of the United States by what he himself is doing at present, for sometimes what he in America considers a good policy, may be a bad thing in the Philippines.

Now, for instance—and I hope President Roosevelt will not consider this remark as a criticism, for that is far from my intention,—for instance, his representative in the Philippines, High Commissioner, is always reminding the President of the Commonwealth to keep a well-balanced budget, and the President of the United States in a recent speech took credit for the fact that he is unbalancing the budget of the United States. He said that borrowing money is an insurance for the welfare of the people of America. How about borrowing money in the Philippines? Is that not an assurance for the welfare of the Filipinos?

Now then, we have in the Philippines a so-called depression,—whatever that means,—and chief executives and legislators in other parts of the world consider themselves in duty bound to appropriate public funds to distribute amongst employees to reward their political leaders. Now what would you think if we attempted to appropriate money to distribute amongst our political leaders? Now we are beginning to see the difficulties of a President of the Commonwealth. I am going to give you another little illustration of the difficulties of this office. This is a secret but it is not a state secret. I am not quite sure of the wisdom of giving you this information, but I have a purpose in doing so.

My purpose is to have you realize the difficulties that we are facing here so that you may look through a more sympathetic glass at what we are attempting to do. Another reason I am going to give you is that I have just read a book by Justice Malcolm, entitled “The Commonwealth of the Philippines,” which, by the way, I call the biography of Justice Malcolm. In describing the ceremonies of the inauguration of the Commonwealth, he mentioned that 19 guns were fired upon the inauguration of the President of the Commonwealth instead of 21. It is true they were 19. But why did Justice Malcolm emphasize the fact that they were not 21? I will give you the reason so that some of the people who are listening to me tonight may know.

Some one gave out to the press, before the program for the inauguration of the Commonwealth was completed, the news that there were to be 21 guns fired upon the inauguration of the President of the Commonwealth, and immediately the so-called “one hundred per cent American” newspapermen began to raise their cry to the very heavens! They thought perhaps that if 21 guns were fired the sovereignty of the United States would go down, that American prestige would be lost. I happen to know that instructions were given by the Secretary of War to the then Governor-General of the Philippine Islands that 21 guns be fired for the President of the Commonwealth. And I happen to know also that later on those instructions were revised so as to make the guns 19. The matter was brought to my attention and my first reaction was to tell those who were going to fire the guns not to fire any at all. And I told Governor-General Murphy that I considered this question so small and mine, that I would tell him what I would do: I would not take my oath of office in the Legislative Building, but I would get in my car and go to Pasay and take the oath of office there. You can well imagine how Governor Murphy and Secretary of War Dern would have felt had I absolutely refused to take part—all the people had come to see the Secretary of War and the inauguration, and I was not going to be there. Now that was only a small matter. But it meant a greater deal.

Now, there are evidently some people who have not learned to look upon things in the Philippines from the proper point of view. Every American in the Philippines, in passing judgment on anything that takes place here today, should bear in mind the fact that the government established in the Philippines has not been wrested from America but is a generous concession on the part of the United States; that the authority vested in the Government of the Commonwealth is not an authority wrested from the United States, but an authority given by the Congress of the United States. There is a great difference, there ought to be a great difference, in the feeling of a people whose sovereignty has been taken away from them by another people, and of a people who voluntarily is giving up that sovereignty.

Looking at the Philippine question from a broad point of view, the world realizes better the nobility and greatness of action of the Government and people of the United States. If the establishment of the Commonwealth was only meant to make the Filipinos believe that they have a government here that they may call their own, while as a matter of fact this Government is to be run by the United States, that would be unworthy of a great people and a great nation. America need not play this sort of a game. She is too strong, too powerful to do anything that is false. And as for the Filipinos, I can say for myself that unless we are given power commensurate with the responsibility that we have, we better have none at all.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, the success of this Government, every little success, will redound in greater gratitude to the United States than anything that has been done before. It certainly will redound to the benefit of those in the Philippines, whether Americans, Filipinos or foreigners, and it will also redound to the benefit of the United States. Our purpose is clear. We want to establish in the Philippines a government in accordance with the Independence Law, and in accordance with mandates of our Constitution. And I want to add this: It is my ambition to see that a democracy such as is contemplated in our Constitution and in the Act of Congress can be made just as efficient as any autocracy or dictatorship; and that a democracy can run a government like a business concern. That is my

ambition, and I am sure we will be able to achieve success if I only can have the willingness of the newspapermen in the Philippines to cooperate with that policy.

The trouble is that, my friend, Doctor Romulo, here, when I try to run the government as a business concern, immediately writes an editorial saying that constitutional government is imperiled. Gentlemen, I propose to follow a procedure in running this Government. I am going to eliminate red tape and let common sense rule.

As I told you before, I am just going to give a talk, and I am only citing this instance as a means with which you can judge what is going on. For instance, this fight between the Customhouse and the Rice and Corn Corporation. I was in Baguio when I read in the papers that Mr. Aldanese was having a fight with Mr. Singson Encarnacion, both officials of the Philippine Government, both handling money of the Philippine Government, both giving the newspapermen an opportunity to criticize the Government again, and to say that constitutional government is in danger. I know that in a case like that it would be nice for the Chief Executive to continue to stay in Baguio playing golf, and that he is not supposed to know what is going on until he sees the papers on the case. I propose to use my eyes and my ears just as every man and woman use their eyes and ears. I came to Manila and called Aldanese, Singson Encarnacion, and Secretary of Justice Yulo to a conference. In ten minutes I had the case disposed of. You can see in this way that I actually saved the people money and time, by not doing what the distinguished editor and publisher of the Herald wanted me to do, to let the matter go to court and let the court decide.

Now I have told you that I am running this Government like a business concern. The National Government is the holding corporation, the President is the manager of the holding corporation. And the other entities of the Government are subsidiary corporations. Now, the Bureau of Customs is one of the subsidiary corporations; the Rice and Corn Corporation is another subsidiary corporation. Do you, ladies and gentlemen, think that the president and manager of the holding corporation would allow his subsidiary corporations to have suits? That is pure nonsense. Here was a case of whether the money should go to the Bureau of Customs or to the Rice and Corn Corporation, both go to the Bureau of Customs or to the Rice and Corn Corporation, both of which are, anyhow, Government entities. Since the easiest thing was not to pay any duty, we decided not to pay. Now, if it had been a question between the Rice and Corn Corporation and a private concern, I would not have decided that matter, but would have let the courts decide. Fortunately for the Government in matters of this sort, it is my construction of the law and not the construction of newspaper editors which is to be respected. .

Now again, the other day I read a criticism by another friendly paper, a TVT newspaper. This is a fine opportunity to go after everybody, and I am going to do it. There has been criticism because, it is said, everybody is saying "yes." That is not true. Somebody has said "no." Many are saying "no". But those "noes" are said in our conferences. What kind of a government do these critics want? Do they want a government where the President says one thing and the Cabinet does another thing? If that is what they want, let us go back to the days when the government was in the mountains. There has to be somebody in the government with responsibility and decisions must be his.

Now, another criticism that I noted the other day was that which is anticipating the attitude on the part of the National Assembly. The critics are encouraging national assemblymen to say "no" to the President. Just imagine a legislature and a chief executive at loggerheads. What would be accomplished by the Government in such a case? What would be the benefit to the people? What is it that we want here in the Philippines, anyway?

If I were asked now to express my judgment upon my administration, my answer would be that it is a disappointing administration. My friends and political enemies alike have been disappointed. My friends sometimes have expected me to save them from certain troubles into which they themselves have voluntarily gone. Other friends believe that it is my duty to give them everything that is in the Government.

When I was being considered for the position of President of the Philippines, I told some of the people who came to talk to me that I would rather be Resident Commissioner in the United States than President of the Philippines. There was a little bit of hypocrisy at that time in that answer. Just a little bit. Because really, I did not dislike the position of resident commissioner. I had some kind of a suspicion that the position of President, although very attractive with its power and glamour—had something not altogether agreeable. Now, let me tell you, that it is the worst job that anybody can have. And if I were a quitter, I would quit now. For a man of my temperament, it is the

worst job, because I like my friends, and I love to be happy. Disagreeable things cut me through, and I don't remember from the day that I was first in Malacañan to this moment not having some disagreeable things to settle as President of the Philippines. So don't envy me, those of you who are aspiring to succeed me. Don't envy me yet. Take your time for it will come to you. I said before that my ambition is to show that a democracy can be an efficient government, and that a democratic government can run the affairs of the Government as well as any private organization can run its affairs. If I succeed in proving the truth of those statements, the Philippine Islands will have contributed greatly to the science of self-government. If I can have the loyal support and cooperation of every citizen in this Commonwealth, whether in the Government or out of the Government, I can assure you that that can be done.

Please, you, gentlemen, who by virtue of your right as citizens, or by some other special right that you may have, take the right to pass judgment upon what the Government is doing, please, do not waste your time in studying the details or the manner in which things are being done. Judge our Government by the results, for you are going to see new methods in the Government of the Philippines, methods that have not been tried before. Don't get scared, don't believe that that means that you have a dictatorship here. Do you realize that anything may happen in the Philippines, including revolution, or chaos, except a dictatorship? We have to have a constitutional government in the Philippines, and a republican system of government in the Philippines, and a republican system of government under the Tydings-McDuffie Law. Even if I tried to be a dictator I couldn't be, because the Independence Law which is the supreme law of the land today, gives the President of the United States power and duty to take over the government of the Philippines the moment a constitutional government has disappeared. All this talk of dictatorship is not true. It is true that sometimes I would like to be a dictator, but unfortunately, or fortunately, whichever you want, I could not be even if I wanted to. If you see that I am doing certain things that are not the practice of chief executives in other lands, do not get scared. Let me go on. Wait for results. The easiest thing for a chief executive to do is to follow the trodden path. Well, if that is all we are going to do here I don't see the necessity for changing chief executives. We have to try new things in the Philippines if we wish to accomplish something. We have a country here that has immense possibilities. We have been talking about economic development during the last 35 or 40 years and we are almost where we were before. We have done nothing new, or very little that is new. Of course, I am not infallible. It is possible that some of the things that my administration has undertaken will turn out to be a mistake or a failure, but unless we try something, we will never accomplish anything. We have started our economic policy by creating the Rice and Corn Corporation and we have been bombarded from every source. We have been bombarded from every side, by rice producers, who themselves will be benefited, by the consumers who will be protected, if this is a success, from possible future exploitation by unscrupulous merchants.

Everybody is criticizing. Nobody is suggesting anything new. We have had 35 years, at least, of this situation; there were years when there was too much rice, and the price of rice was not sufficient to pay the poor farmer; at times the price was so high that the consumer could not pay for it. We are trying to do something to remedy this situation, and we think this is the remedy. And what I have just said about the Rice and Corn Corporation I am saying of everything that we can attempt here. Of course, we are not going to run wild. We are not going to try to start anything new just for the pleasure of starting something. Every step that we take will be carefully studied. The pros and cons will be weighed, and we will act only when, considering human limitations, we feel that we have adopted the right course. Unless those who live in the Philippines, Americans, foreigners, and Filipinos, realize that the problems confronting the Government of the Commonwealth are much greater than they appear on the surface, and unless they forget all and every kind of prejudice against this Government, it is going to be almost humanly impossible to make it a success. And let me tell you again that the success of this Government is in the interest of all even of those who have been against its establishment. It will be to their interest if this Government is a success. It should be remembered by everybody that this Government is here to stay, that America is in no position to change this system of government, that America cannot and will not withdraw from the Philippines the offer of independence, and that, therefore, this is a fact that everybody has to face,—those who believe in independence and those who do not believe in independence; those who believe in Philippine self-government and those who do not. It is a fact that we all have to face, that the Government is here to stay, and that this Commonwealth Government will be converted into an independent government. All opposed to the Government of the Commonwealth, all critical attitudes to the use and exercise of the right of self-government, will not prevent the coming of independence, for if more difficulties are going to be placed in our way during the next ten years probably the Filipinos will decide to ask America to shorten the period, and the shortening of that period, I have no doubt, will be granted if the people of the Philippines ask for it. No one better than I realizes the responsibilities that America still has in the Philippines. No one better than I feels the necessity on the part of the Filipinos to do everything in their power to show the United

States not only their gratitude for what has been done in their behalf, but also their determination to protect the interests of Americans here just as much as they are protecting the interests of the Philippines. With that assurance, everybody ought to be ready and willing to do his part to bring about the success of this undertaking.

It is fortunate for the people of the Philippines that the first High Commissioner is a man who properly understands the purposes behind the Independence Law, and who has absolute confidence in the loyalty of the Filipinos. I am referring to Commissioner Murphy. Our relations have been of the very best and the country is fortunate that he has been chosen as first High Commissioner, for he realizes what problems confront us, he has been able to avoid misunderstanding and disagreement, and we are working hand in hand. A High Commissioner who is not wise can wreck this whole thing, and so can a President who is incapable of seeing the other side bring about an impossible situation. But no matter how much the High Commissioner, on the one hand, and the President of the Philippines, on the other, may want to come to an agreement, and to cooperate with one another, unless they have the cooperation of their respective peoples to encourage them, sooner or later they may be forced to take an intolerant attitude with one another. For this reason my appeal tonight is that Americans and Filipinos alike should try to get together and make a success of this Government. Once more, I want to say to you I am going to run a purely human government here, a government that will consider the rights of everybody and protect them; a government that will try to do business as business is being done by private enterprises; a government that will attempt to protect those who have in what they have, and help those who have not in acquiring what they need. Six years from now I hope to have another occasion to address the Rotary and look back upon the past, and I hope that when that time comes we will all be together again and I shall have found during the intervening period your encouragement and support, and that I shall have been equal to the trust that has been placed in my hands by my people.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines at Camp Keithley, Lanao, June 6, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At Camp Keithley, Lanao**

[delivered on June 6, 1936]

People of Lanao:

We have come to visit you for two purposes—one is to inform you of what the National Government has in mind with reference to you, and the other is to find out what your situation is. With me have come the Vice-President, the Speaker, the Floor Leader, and almost a majority of the membership of the National Assembly. Also, a few provincial governors are accompanying us on this trip.

You must know that a change in the Government of the Philippine Islands has taken place since last November. The powers of government, insofar as our domestic affairs are concerned, are entirely in the hands of the people of our country. You took part—you, the people of this province—in the election of the President of the Philippines in the same way that you took part in the election of the man who now represents you in the National Assembly.

I have invited these members of the National Assembly to visit Mindanao because it is the purpose of your Government to bring to realization the so-much-talked-of development of Mindanao. The National Assembly, not the Chief Executive, is vested with the power of determining our national policies. While it is my duty as Executive to make recommendations to the National Assembly, the last word rests with that body.

Mindanao is one of the most important components of the Philippine Archipelago. In many respects, this island excels every other island of the Philippines. You have here the highest mountain in the Philippines as well as a scenery as beautiful as that which one can find not only in any other part of the Archipelago but also anywhere in the world; and above all, you have here a soil which is of the richest this country can offer, with the added advantage that you do not have the frequent typhoons that visit our other islands. You have abundant hydraulic power, and all that is needed is to harness your rivers and waterfalls to utilize that power.

So our Government is more than justified in giving impetus to the development of Mindanao, and the time has come for action and not for talk. Already I have authorized the expenditure of a fund placed in my hands by the National Assembly in its last session for the purpose of completing some of your road systems here. Next year it will be possible for people residing in Cagayan to go by automobile through Davao, Lanao, Cotabato, and Bukidnon, and if the National Assembly will appropriate the necessary money I expect to have all these projects completed during my administration. I hope from now on that the responsible officials of the Philippine Government who have the power to determine the policies of this Government will look into the development of Mindanao from a more realistic point of view.

It is with this object in mind that I asked the Speaker and the members of the National Assembly to make this trip with me. I want the members of the Assembly to realize the great responsibility on their shoulders with regard to Mindanao. I want them to see how vast the resources of this country are, and in that way realized the importance of the work placed in their hands. I want them to bear in mind that they are not merely administering the affairs of their districts, of the municipalities comprising those districts, or the barrios constituting those municipalities, but that their responsibility far transcends their particular communities. Indeed, their people expect of them the wise disposition of this vast domain given by God to the inhabitants of this country.

I am sure that every member of the National Assembly has been thrilled by the beautiful sight that has been before his eyes since he landed in Iligan. Now, as for you, you must feel and act from now on as the constituents of one

great nation. Let us have no more of that fiction that Moros and Christians cannot get along together; no more of that nonsense that Christian Filipinos cannot govern their non-Christian brothers. You, the Mohammedans, and you, the Christians, constitute one people, and over you preside a Chief Executive and a National Assembly elected by you, and you alone. Mohammedan Filipinos will receive exactly the same consideration, the same protection, the same treatments as the Christian Filipinos. In this country Mohammedan Filipinos will feel the weight of the hand of justice as much as the Christian Filipinos, if they violate our laws. The first and most important duty of every government is to maintain peace and order, and this duty will be performed by the Government of this Commonwealth. The first and most important duty of every citizen is to be peaceful and law-abiding, and I hope that this duty in turn will be performed by our people.

If you have complaints to make, present them to the proper authorities. If you have grievances, go to the courts when it is a matter of judicial adjudication, or go to your provincial authorities if it is a matter of administration. But never try to use force when you want redress of your supposed or real grievances. For no matter how right you may be, the moment you use force you are in the wrong. Now, my friends, I hope that, hereafter, no news will report the disturbance of public order in the Province of Lanao. You have one of the most beautiful spots in the world right here. You have also a very rich country. You can live here in peace, comfort, and happiness. Life is very dear even when the country is not as beautiful as Lanao. It ought to be, therefore, doubly dear in Lanao—and I ask you to try to conserve your own life here.

We are considering just now whether the National Assembly should resolve to develop Dansalan into one of the principal cities of the Archipelago. Not only will you be connected with the other end of the Island of Mindanao, which, as I said before, is an accomplished fact, but also, if the National Assembly will approve it, we are going to build a road around Lake Lanao so that the land there may be properly cultivated and you may be sure that its yield will increase your prosperity. All that we ask of you is peace and cooperation with the Government. Don't quarrel among yourselves. Now, my friends, I am very happy to have come here. I am sure I express the sentiments of the Vice-President, and of the Speaker, the Floor Leader, and the members of the National Assembly, when I say that we are grateful to you for the opportunity you have afforded us of seeing you.

Speech of President Quezon on Friendship and Goodwill

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines On Friendship and Goodwill

[Delivered on the occasion of the visit of students from Japan at Malacañan Palace, Manila, July 28, 1936]

Mr. Saito and Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you and to express to you my appreciation of the spirit of friendship and goodwill that has prompted your visit to our country. I am sure the people of the Philippines are gratified by this demonstration of amity and cordial neighborliness.

We are particularly gratified to see the students of Japan interested in knowing our people, for after all it will be the men of tomorrow, both here and in Japan, who must face the problems that will confront both countries. Nothing is better for the Philippines and Japan, therefore, than for their youth to meet each other at this stage of their life when they are still without set prejudices, know each other, and in thus knowing each other eliminate the danger of misunderstanding and friction brought about by ignorance and misinformation. Friendships now formed may serve as a common ground in the future for a sympathetic and friendly discussion by these same young men who may at that time be the leaders of their respective countries.

This visit, therefore, is an investment in goodwill for the future of both nations, and so it is my hope that this will not be the last but rather the beginning of other visits from Japan to be reciprocated in the same spirit by our Filipino students.

One more let me welcome you and express the hope that your visit to this country may be a source of both pleasure and profit to each and everyone of you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Address of President Quezon on higher wages for Filipino Laborers, August 19, 1936

**Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On higher wages for Filipino Laborers**

[Broadcast over Station KZRM, Manila, on the Occasion of the
President's Birthday, August 19, 1936]

My Beloved Countrymen:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for joining with me in my birthday celebration. I appreciate it all the more because you are helping a worthy cause—our fight against tuberculosis. Those afflicted with the dread disease who will profit from your charity tonight will bless you for giving them a helping hand. To you all, my cordial greetings and the expression of my sincere gratitude.

More important, however, than curing tuberculosis is preventing it. I am told that there was an old Chinese custom wherein a Chinese family paid a handsome salary to its physician while there was no sickness in the family, but reduced the pay as soon as somebody was taken ill. Whether or not the Chinese at the time knew they were indulging in the science of preventive medicine, the fact is that they seemed to have had the proper slant on the prevention of disease.

I mention this because it is my conviction that while there should not be any let-up in our present campaign against tuberculosis and we should give the Philippine Islands Anti-Tuberculosis Society our unstinted support, the time has come for us to take preventive measures; for to eradicate tuberculosis from the Philippines we must eliminate the causes that have made the white plague the one disease that claims more victims every year than any other disease known to us in the Philippines.

The most common cause of tuberculosis is malnutrition. Our poor people are underfed and, lacking the physical strength, they are an easy prey to tuberculosis. They are underfed because they are underpaid. And tonight I propose to make as the keynote of my birthday celebration an appeal to the whole nation that better wages be paid the laborer, be he on the farm or in the factory.

It is true that our laborers here get a higher wage scale than that given to the workingmen of some of our neighboring countries. But the standard of living here among our masses is higher than that of those nations. More important, however, than this is the fact that, it cannot be an excuse for us to neglect to do that which is our duty to do just because in company with other countries we may be a trifle better off. This is no reason why we should not pay higher wages if that which we give our laborer now, while higher than that given by neighboring countries, is not sufficient to give him what he needs for his support and that of his family.

It is trite to say that the first and most fundamental right of man is his right to live. This right imposes upon well-organized society the duty to provide him with the means for his existence. That other countries around us fail in this primary duty is no good excuse for us to evade it.

I have heard it said that if we pay higher wages to our workmen, we are doomed in our competition with the countries in this section of the globe. This is fallacious, because to pay good wages to our laborers is to give them proper nourishment, and proper nutrition means health. A healthy laborer can do more and better work than one who

is sickly and underfed. Of course, in proportion as we pay higher wages to our workingmen, they in turn are in duty bound to improve the quality and quantity of their work.

On my 58th birthday, my main concern is the question of higher wage for the Filipino laborer. Today I signed an executive order fixing a minimum wage for all Government laborers, an increase of 20 per cent over that which we have been paying in the past. You will agree with me that by all signs and portents, the country is out of the depression. There is an upward swing in our trade and business. The prices of our principal products are better now than they have been the last few years. Our mines are increasing the wealth of the nation. There are people who are getting rich. We must let the workingman share in this prosperity.

I am exerting all efforts to provide our Government with the necessary force to maintain law and order. But the best foundation of peace is not that which is built on fear; it is that which is the result of justice and contentment. No subversive doctrine can thrive here if our working class is treated justly and every laborer is given that which is his due. It is the best guarantee for the preservation of our Government and our nation.

It is our boast that we are the only Christian nation in the Far East. Our boast would be an empty one if we do not show in actual practice that we are Christians. Christianity's highest teaching is to love our fellow man. Let us love by helping him and his family live happy and contented.

If I were allowed to make a plea as I celebrate my birthday today I would unhesitatingly ask everyone who is listening to me to join in one concerted effort to improve the living conditions of our masses. It is my one concern because I would like to see it done spontaneously by those in a position to do so without our having to impose it by legislation. Social justice is far more beneficent if it comes as a matter of sentiment and not of law.

May the Almighty bless our country and continue showering on us His choicest blessings!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Radio Talk of President Quezon on the Occasion of His Birthday, August 19, 1936

**Radio Talk
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Occasion of His Birthday**

[Broadcast over Station KZRM, Manila, August 19, 1936]

HIGHER WAGES FOR FILIPINO LABORERS

My Beloved Countrymen:

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for joining with me in my birthday celebration. I appreciate it all the more because you are helping a worthy cause—our fight against tuberculosis. Those afflicted with the dread disease who will profit from your charity tonight will bless you for giving them a helping hand. To you all, my cordial greetings and the expression of my sincere gratitude.

More important, however, than curing tuberculosis is preventing it. I am told that there was an old Chinese custom wherein a Chinese family paid a handsome salary to its physician while there was no sickness in the family, but reduced the pay as soon as somebody was taken ill. Whether or not the Chinese at the time knew they were indulging in the science of preventive medicine, the fact is that they seemed to have had the proper slant on the prevention of disease.

I mention this because it is my conviction that while there should not be any let-up in our present campaign against tuberculosis and we should give the Philippine Islands Anti-Tuberculosis Society our unstinted support, the time has come for us to take preventive measures; for to eradicate tuberculosis from the Philippines we must eliminate the causes that have made the white plague the one disease that claims more victims every year than any other disease known to us in the Philippines.

The most common cause of tuberculosis is malnutrition. Our poor people are underfed and, lacking the physical strength, they are an easy prey to tuberculosis. They are underfed because they are underpaid. And tonight I propose to make as the keynote of my birthday celebration an appeal to the whole nation that better wages be paid to the laborer, be he on the farm or in the factory.

It is true that our laborers here get a higher wage scale than that given to the workingman of some of our neighboring countries. But the standard of living here among our masses is higher than that of those nations. More important, however, that this is the fact that it cannot be an excuse for us to neglect to do that which is our duty to do just because in comparison with other countries we may be a trifle better off. This is no reason why we should not pay higher wages if that which we give our laborer now, while higher than that given by neighboring countries, is not sufficient to give him what he needs for his support and that of his family.

It is trite to say that the first and most fundamental right of a man is his right to live. This right imposes upon well-organized society the duty to provide him with the means for his existence. That other countries around us fail in this primary duty is no good excuse for us to evade it.

I have heard it said that if we pay higher wages to our workingmen, we are doomed in our competition with the countries in this section of the globe. This is fallacious, because to pay good wages to our laborers is to give them proper nourishment, and proper nutrition means health. A healthy laborer can do more and better work than one who is sickly and underfed. Of course, in proportion as we pay higher wages to our workingmen, they in turn are in duty bound to improve the quality and quantity of their work.

On my 58th birthday, my main concern is the question of higher wage for the Filipino laborer. Today I signed an executive order fixing a minimum wage for all Government laborers, an increase of 20 per cent over that which we have been paying in the past. You will agree with me that by all signs and portents, the country is out of the depression. There is an upward swing in our trade and business. The prices of our principal products are better now than they have been the last few years. Our mines are increasing the wealth of the nation. There are people who are getting rich. We must let the workingman share in this prosperity.

I am exerting all efforts to provide our Government with the necessary force to maintain law and order. But the best foundation of peace is not that which is built on fear; it is that which is the result of justice and contentment. No subversive doctrine can thrive here if our working class is treated justly and every laborer is given that which is his due. It is the best guarantee for the preservation of our Government and our nation.

It is our boast that we are the only Christian nation in the Far East. Our boast would be an empty one if we do not show in actual practice that we are Christians. Christianity's highest teaching is to love our fellow man. Let us love by helping him and his family live happy and contented.

If I were allowed to make a plea as I celebrate my birthday today I would unhesitatingly ask everyone who is listening to me to join in one concerted effort to improve the living conditions of our masses. It is my one concern because I would like to see done spontaneously by those in a position to do so without our having to impose it by legislation. Social justice is far more beneficent if it comes as a matter of sentiment and not of law.

May the Almighty bless our country and continue showering on us His choicest blessings!

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the MacArthurs in Philippine History, August 24, 1936 SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

THE MacARTHURS IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

[Delivered at a Dinner in Honor of Field Marshal Douglas MacArthur
at Malacañan Palace, Manila, August 24, 1936]

Marshal MacArthur and Gentlemen:

The occasion tonight brings to my mind reminiscences of the past and with your permission I shall refer to them as my opening remarks.

Thirty-seven years ago I was privileged for the first time to walk into the grounds of Malacañang and enter the Palace halls. The circumstances attending my errand were such that my visit left a lasting vivid impression in my mind. Before that day I had no occasion to see Malacañang even from the street. I knew, of course, of the Palace as the official residence of the Spanish Captain General, who was also the Governor-General of the Philippine Islands; and my idea of the grandeur of the place was in harmony with my conception of the power and authority of the personage occupying it. "El Capitan General," as His Excellency was called, was to my youthful mind a demigod. His word was law and his will supreme. Liberty, property, life itself were in the hollow of his hand. I envisioned Malacañan Palace as a sort of a *sanctum sanctorum* from which my feet of clay were forever barred to enter.

But one day in 1900, when General Mascardo's headquarters were located in the mountains between Bagac and Moron, of the Province of Bataan, we read the news in a Manila newspaper that General Aguinaldo had been captured, and was a prisoner in Malacañan. General Mascardo at once summoned his General Staff. The first impression among us was that the story could not be true, for even our own headquarters did not know the exact whereabouts of General Aguinaldo. We thought that it was a fabricated story published for the purpose of demoralizing the ranks of the Philippine Army. But our Chief of Staff, the late Colonel Leysan, a former officer of the Spanish Army, remarked that the importance of the news required that we ascertain its veracity. Thereupon General Mascardo ordered me to surrender to the American forces and try to find out whether or not General Aguinaldo had really been captured. I was at the time suffering from malaria and had become more of a burden to our headquarters than anything else. The General, therefore, thought it best for me to go to Manila and undergo treatment. "If General Aguinaldo is a captive in Manila, try to get in touch with him," General Mascardo said to me. "Ask him if he has any order to give and write me a letter."

The following day I left the camp and went to Mariveles with my two orderlies. After a long and hard journey I at last reached the foot of the Mariveles Mountain where I encamped and from where I sent word to the American commander of the post that I was willing to surrender if he could guarantee that after giving myself up I would be set free. In reply I was told that unless I had committed some crime, such as ordering the killing of some American prisoners or some Filipino civilians, and provided that I was willing to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, I would be released immediately. Given this assurance, and knowing that I had committed no crime, with my orderlies I entered the town of Mariveles in the afternoon, and surrendered to the American officer whom I subsequently found to be Lieutenant Lawrence S. Miller.

True to his word, Lieutenant Miller told me that I was a free man after I had signed the oath of allegiance to the United States. I then informed the lieutenant that one of the reasons for my surrender was to find out the truth about

the report of General Aguinaldo's capture, and if true, I wanted to see him with my own eyes in order that I could inform General Mascardo of the fact. The following day Lieutenant Miller sent for me and told me that I could go to Manila on one of the Army launches and proceed directly to Malacañan where General Aguinaldo was detained.

I took the launch, came to Manila, arrived early in the evening, and from the boat I was taken to Malacañan. It was with a feeling of awe that I entered these forbidden grounds and, with diverse feelings, went up the stairs, entered this very hall where we are having this banquet, and was ushered into that last door on the right side. As I entered the door I saw an imposing military figure dressed in the uniform of a general of the United States Army, who, upon seeing me, rose to his full six feet. At his side there stood a young Army officer and a man dressed in civilian clothes, who acted as the interpreter. The general was General Arthur MacArthur; the young Army officer, his aide and, I understand, the brother of our guest of honor; and the interpreter, Fred Fischer, later to become a member of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

After my introduction to the General, I told him that I had come to find out if General Aguinaldo had really been captured, and if so, to see the General and talk to him. General MacArthur pointed to the opposite door, said a few words in English, which were translated to me as meaning that General Aguinaldo was in the room and that I could go and talk to him. I then withdrew, walked toward the room pointed out to me, at the door of which there were two American soldiers standing with white gloves, each soldier holding a gun with drawn bayonet. As I entered the room and saw General Aguinaldo, I felt that the world had ended. The last time I saw General Aguinaldo, he was in his general headquarters in Tarlac, still the supreme head of the Philippine Republic, the Commander-in-Chief of our forces, the man whose every order no Filipino dared to question. I was then on his staff and had come that day to bid him good-bye, for I was going to the front, at my own request, to join the command of General Mascardo.

As long as I live I shall never forget the anguish of my heart when I saw my former Commander-in-Chief a prisoner, alone in that room, guarded by armed soldiers, and accompanied only by Dr. Barcelona, his personal physician. I approached General Aguinaldo with all the respect and veneration that I felt for him and told him of the purpose of my visit. General Aguinaldo looked at me with suspicious eyes, and as I divined what he had in mind, I said: "General, please take a good look at me and see my clothing speak to you of a life led in the mountains? And see these scars,—don't they remind you of the effects of a certain medicine only the people in the hills use?" After my remarks General Aguinaldo's countenance changed somewhat, but he simply said to me: "Well, as you see, I am a prisoner. Tell General Mascardo you have seen me and that I have nothing to say." He then asked how many more rifles we had. I told him we had 800 but hardly any ammunition. Seeing that he had no further questions to ask I took my leave.

Gentlemen, that was my first visit to Malacañan. As you see, when I first came to the Palace, its occupant was the great sire of the great man whom we are paying a well-deserved tribute to-night. With your permission, let me digress for a while to pay homage to the memory of the man who was as great a soldier as he was a statesman.

He came to take command of all the American forces that were then engaged in putting down the armed resistance that the Filipino people were putting up against the establishment in these Islands of the American sovereignty. He still found the Philippine Army fighting desperately in the field, but while he was doing his work as a soldier thoroughly and effectively, his eyes were set in another direction. He had a clear vision of the path of duty that Americans should follow in dealing with the people of these Islands. He knew his country's history, traditions, and ideals, and he saw in his flag,—the flag which he lived to serve,—the symbol not of force or subjection, but of justice and freedom. Hence, while directing the campaign that was finally to bring about the surrender of the Filipino forces, he was at the same time laying the foundation for civil government and ordered liberty. He adopted at once a policy of enlightenment and made secure individual liberty and freedom of conscience. He allowed every town occupied by the American forces to be governed by native officials. He opened the schools, established civil courts, and issued two executive orders, among others, that became in those early days of military régime the Magna Charta of Philippine liberty. I refer to Executive Order No. 58 establishing the rules of procedure in criminal cases to be followed in place of the old Spanish criminal procedure which afforded no protection to the rights of the accused; and this executive order is still in force today as the Code of Civil Procedure. He also instituted the writ of habeas corpus which up to that time had never been known in the Philippines. These and many other measures that blazed the way for the adoption of the policy "the Philippines for the Filipinos," then were the work of General Arthur MacArthur. As far back then as those early days of American occupation, he was building the government to be in

the future the examples set for the world by the United States in the promotion of human liberty and progress. And as General MacArthur saw the future, and acted in preparation for that future, so did his brothers-in-arms pursue the course which he marked out.

Gentlemen, let me on this occasion say once more what on several others I have said: The Army and Navy of the United States are entitled to the eternal recognition of my country. And now let me turn to our distinguished guest of honor.

When I first met General Douglas MacArthur many years back, I immediately felt strongly attracted by his magnetic personality. Moreover, I remembered the young officer who was the aide of General Arthur MacArthur when I first came to Malacañan and asked him if he was the same man. He answered me that it was his elder brother. Since that time we have become very close friends.

It is not my purpose to speak to you tonight of Douglas MacArthur's extraordinary record. It is plainly and permanently written, for all to see. Happily that career has brought him time and again to sojourn and serve with us. As a young lieutenant, as a brigade commander, and finally as head of the American Army in the Philippines he has dwelt here and worked here, always increasing his understanding of our present and future problems, his regard for our traditions and our aspirations, and gaining for himself an ever-growing respect, admiration and esteem among our people.

When, finally, the tortuous line that for many years marked the course of the Philippine movement toward political independence straightened out to an undeviating direction, assuring, within a decade, final attainment of our objective, there simultaneously fell to us the task of solving the inescapable problems incident to sovereignty. Chief among them was that of substituting effective measures of our own to provide the security heretofore assured these Islands through the presence of the American flag. I thought at once of General MacArthur, then the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, as the one man we knew best to whom we could turn for advice, and, if possible, for the task of organizing our national defense. Without tracing the course of the negotiations that won the consent of the President of the United States to this arrangement, I simply state that for me, and I believe for every patriotic Filipino, it was a day of real rejoicing when I could announce to my people that Douglas MacArthur had again come back to us, this time to serve as Military adviser for the Commonwealth.

With clear vision he analyzed our defensive problems and forthright and honest fashion enumerated the measures necessary to their successful solution. He inspired us to renewed confidence in our destiny—he gave to us a plan of preparation that by its accurate adjustment to our peculiar needs makes attainment of national security a practical goal within the limit of our means. He has labored diligently and effectively to establish the machinery through which that plan will reach fruition. But, more important even than these, he has instilled in us the truth that attainment of security is not merely a function of money and of wealth; but rather is a result of properly directed patriotism, of willingness to sacrifice self for the attainment of a spiritual ideal, and is a practical expression of a unified and unwavering determination to remain free, and in dependent—a fearless member of the family of nations!

In this accomplishment will be recorded the final recognition of Douglas MacArthur's service to the Philippines. As the product of his energy and skill the Army will be his monument in these Islands, and its value to our people will measure the extent of his influence upon our destiny. It is my pleasure, in this connection, to make of record the generous cooperation that the Army and Navy of the United States are lending to General MacArthur and the Government of the Commonwealth.

In testimony of my own personal and official faith in the plans that he has brought to us and in recognition of the assistance he is giving us, I recently invoked the authority of the National Defense Act to confer upon him the highest military rank known to civilized nations. It is now my privilege to hand to you, General, your commission as Field Marshal of the Philippine Army. To that rank there has traditionally attached a badge of office—a marshal's baton. This badge of office has been provided by a circle of your warm personal friends as a spontaneous expression of their admiration and esteem,—a touch of sentiment which, I know, will further enhance any satisfaction you may take in its possession.

I shall ask Mrs. Quezon to present to you in the name of those friends the Baton of a Field Marshal of the Army of the Philippines!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon in Honor of Archbishop Michael J. O'Doherty, September 4, 1936 Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
In Honor of Archbishop Michael J. O'Doherty**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, Manila, September 4, 1936]

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Many years ago, I was one day agreeably surprised in my office in the Office Building of the House of Representatives in Washington by the visit of a bishop of the Catholic Church. I say I was agreeably surprised because up to that time no bishop of foreign blood had ever called on me, or, as far as I knew, on any other Filipino official. I was all the more surprised because at the time it was publicly known that I belonged to the Masonic Society and I had no reason to believe that this fact was ignored by my distinguished visitor.

The bishop came to tell me that he had just been appointed Bishop of Zamboanga and that he felt it his duty, which he was glad to perform, to pay his respects to the representative of the Filipino people in the Congress of the United States, and I accordingly expressed by appreciation for his gracious courtesy. That was the beginning of my acquaintance which later ripened into real friendship with His Grace, Archbishop Michael O'Doherty, whom it is my pleasure to honor tonight on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of the Catholic Church.

I mention this incident because, as far as I have had occasion to observe his conduct, it is typical of his attitude toward Filipino officials and non-Catholics. It shows that even at the time when the intervention of Filipino officials in the Government of the Philippines was more or less nominal, Archbishop O'Doherty recognized the importance that should be given Filipino officialdom by those who resided in these Islands, and even by those who were not connected with the Government. It also shows his tolerance towards non-Catholics and his willingness to give them their due. My friendship with Archbishop O'Doherty really developed after he had become the Archbishop of Manila and, I must add, a good many years prior to my rejoining the Catholic Church, the faith of my fathers. I was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands and elected to the 33rd degree of the Scottish Rite Masonry, the highest rank to which a Mason can aspire, when our relations became very friendly.

I will not presume to tell the bishops how they should conduct themselves towards the non-Catholic population of these Islands. That is their affair, and, I take it, they know more about it than I do. But since the friendship that developed between Archbishop O'Doherty and myself while I was still a Mason did no harm to the Church and did some good to the Government, it may be presumed that there was nothing wrong in that relationship. Nothing can stir up the passions and prejudices of men more effectively than religious intolerance, bigotry, and narrowmindedness. History is replete with telling evidences of this fact, and we should not lightly disregard its lessons.

Under the present Constitution of the Philippine Commonwealth, just as under the Jones Act, and in fact ever since the American flag was first hoisted over these Islands, the separation of the Church and the State, and the freedom of worship are guaranteed. The State has nothing to do with the Church, nor the Church with the State. I am a Catholic as everybody knows, I, who, for the time being, is at the head of this Government. As an individual, I worship my God in accordance with my own religious belief. But as the head of the State I can have no more to do with the Catholic Church than I can with a Protestant denomination, the Aglipayan, the Mohammedan, or any other religious organization or sect in the Philippines. And no authority of any church has any right to interfere with the affairs of the Government.

We should be thankful that there is here this separation of the Church and State and freedom of worship. The Church itself is better off when entirely disconnected from the Government, and the Government in turn when disassociated from the Church.

Lastly, I want to say that the Catholic Church and every church in fact can be and should be of great help to the Government and people of the Philippines. The Catholic Church stands for law and order, for respect and obedience to constituted authority, for public and private morality, for human brotherhood, and its influence in this regard will be helpful to our country, especially at this time.

It is not my intention to take advantage of this occasion to deliver an elaborate speech. I am only honoring a friend, as well as the head of the Church, whose teachings are professed by the large majority of Filipinos. I congratulate His Graces the twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration as Bishop and wish him a long life.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Woman Suffrage, September 30, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Woman Suffrage**

[Delivered upon Signing the Woman's Suffrage Plebiscite Bill at
Malacañan Palace, Manila, September 30, 1936]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have signed this bill not only to perform a constitutional duty but also to help further the cause in which I have been deeply interested for many years.

I clearly recall that the first bill ever passed by any of the two houses of the Legislature granting the women the right to vote was introduced at my own suggestion many years ago. However, my active interest in the cause of woman's suffrage had somewhat waned in subsequent years. But due to the constitutional provision, I deem it my duty to express publicly now that I am in favor of woman's suffrage.

If woman's suffrage is extended merely to determine which party or what candidates are going to be in power, the question of whether women will or will not take active part in our elections is not a very important one. I do not believe that the exercise on the part of the women of the right to vote is going to be of vital significance in the ordinary course of politics in the Philippines. But under the Government which has been established through the provisions of the Constitution, I am of the opinion that it is essential and even imperative that the right to vote be granted to Filipino women if they are not to be treated as mere slaves.

Under the Philippine Constitution, the Government has the power to exact compulsory service from every citizen of the Philippines, man or woman, whether in time of peace or in time of war. This being so, are the women in the Philippines to be deprived of the right to say whether or not they shall be compelled to render service to their Government? If the laws are passed by the Assembly compelling the women to render service to the Government before they are allowed to vote, it is tantamount to treating the women as mere slaves. The State today is practically all-embracing in its powers, and even reaches the home, regulates every kind of relationship, not only between the citizens and the Government, but also between individual citizens themselves. And this being the case, I once more ask our men: Are you going to deprive our women of the opportunity to say how their lives are going to be regulated, and is it fair for us to presume that men can always speak in this country for women?

I deny that to grant the Filipino women the right to vote is imposing upon them a very heavy and onerous obligation which they cannot perform except at the cost of their domestic duties. How many among men are making politics their daily interest? Is it not true that even among those who are actively interested in politics only a very insignificant part of their time is devoted solely to it, say once every two or three years? And is it logical to suppose that once the women have been given the right to vote they will have nothing else to do except to play golf, forget their husbands and disregard their children?

To the women I say that this may be their last opportunity. If the Constitution of the Philippines did not give the National Assembly a time limit to grant the women the right to vote, perhaps I would not have taken the interest that I am taking now in the measure. But, under the provisions of the Constitution, if the Filipino women fail to take advantage of the opportunity now given them, they may never have the right of suffrage. In any event, it will be very long before they will have the right to vote, and since it is evident that these women who have taken active interest in winning the ballot for their sex are not going to give up the fight, no matter how small their number, the result is simply that the same question will be before the leaders all the time and be more and more urgent as the years go by. The best thing, therefore, for everybody to do is to settle this question now and for all time.

My advice to men, especially when they are provincial governors who, whether they like it or not, will have something to do with the President of the Philippines, is that they better lay off the plebiscite and allow the women a free and untrammelled expression of their will on whether or not there is to be woman's suffrage in the Philippines.

To women this is their opportunity to secure all the rights and privileges that the women of other countries have. This is not their opportunity to be meddling in politics every day, attending meetings, and making noise which is unbecoming to ladies. What I mean is that this is their opportunity to wield a very important weapon to defend their right to secure for themselves and those to follow them their well-being and happiness.

Another reason which motivated me to sign the bill is the thought which I hate that in the future, when I am dead, my daughters will receive order from the Government of the Philippines on matters affecting their families, their lives, their happiness, and yet they will not have any say on the matter.

It is possible that there will not be 300,000 women who will go to the polls and affirm their desire that women be given the right to vote. If this be so, then the fault will be theirs and theirs alone. As for me, I believe I have done my duty by my wife, by my children, and by all the Filipino women.

Lastly, I wish all you women leaders success in your efforts to secure for the women of the Philippines the right which is theirs, so that they may take an active part in the affairs of the Government.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Quezon on England and the Philippines, October 12, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On England and the Philippines**

[Delivered at a Dinner in Honor of Lord Rothermere at Malacañan
Palace, Manila, October 12, 1936]

My Lord, Gentlemen:

It affords me great pleasure to welcome to our shores one of the most distinguished Britishers, His Lordship, our guest of honor tonight. I take it that most of those who are gathered around this table know that at one time England took Manila, and that if she had wanted it she could have taken the Philippines from Spain.

Sometimes it is a question in my mind as to what would have been the Philippine Islands, what the history of this country would have been, if England, instead of Spain, had remained here during the last two hundred years. I suppose this is not an appropriate occasion for me to answer that question. I mentioned this fact only to show that we are not altogether strangers. Moreover, the English community in these Islands has contributed to a very large extent to the development of our commerce, and it is with satisfaction that I am able to state on this occasion that we only have praise for the conduct of every British subject who resides in the Philippines. [*Applause.*]

I think that it is a Britisher, a very prominent business man in Manila, who has expressed absolute faith and confidence in the future of the Philippines under a government managed by Filipinos. To prove that he was sincere he has sold every security that he had abroad and invested it in the Philippines since the inauguration of the Commonwealth. No man can give better evidence of his faith in a government and a people. No man can give better evidence not only of his faith but also of his interest and his affection for a people than this gentleman to whom I refer for the best evidence that we can give is only that it would cost us money should our confidence be misplaced.

It is a privilege to us to entertain Lord Rothermere here tonight. I hope that although his sojourn is only for a very few hours, he has met a sufficient number of our people to enable him to form some judgment as to the character of the Filipinos and has seen the conditions prevailing in the country, and that when he goes back to England he will use those powerful means that he has at hand to acquaint not only England but entire Europe with the conditions prevailing in the Philippines.

We are among those who believe that the presence of England in the Far East is in the interest of peace and of civilization. It is our desire that the future relations between the English people and our people, between their Government and our Government, after we shall have become independent, will be one of close friendship in a spirit of mutual service. [*Applause.*]

Now, gentlemen, I am going to ask you to drink to the health of Lord Rothermere and to express the wish that he may at some future time pay us another visit, a much longer visit than the one he is paying us today.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon upon Signing Bill No. 212, November 8, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Upon Signing Bill No. 212**

[Released on November 8, 1936]

**SIGNING BILL NO. 212, DEPRIVING S.P.C.A. AGENTS OF
THE POWER TO MAKE ARRESTS FOR VIOLATION
OF LAWS ON CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

(Released to the Press, November 8, 1936)

I have signed Bill No. 212, which amends Act No. 1285 in such a way as to deprive agents of the S.P.C.A. of the power which they heretofore had to make arrests for violation of laws regarding cruelty to animals. I approved the bill in spite of the protests of the representative of the S.P.C.A. because in my opinion it is fundamentally wrong and contrary to every principle of good government to give any private individual or association police powers or to delegate to private institutions the performance of strictly governmental functions. The bill corrects this very serious defect in one of the laws existing in our statute books.

The cruel treatment of animals is an offense against the State penalized under our statutes. There is no difference whatever between a violation of this law and the violation of any other law. Therefore, it is the Government, through its properly constituted agencies, that should arrest violators of said law. Had the bill under consideration attempted to repeal the Acts which penalize the cruel treatment of animals, I would have vetoed it. But fortunately the National Assembly did not do this. Cruelty to animals is still a criminal offense and no change has been introduced as to its penalty.

In order that the law may be properly executed, I am issuing an executive order directing every mayor of a chartered city, every municipal president, the Commissioner of Public Safety and the provost Marshal General as head of the Constabulary Division of the Philippine Army to detail special members of the police force, local, national and the Constabulary, to watch, capture and prosecute offenders against the law prohibiting cruelty to animals. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to call the attention of the people of the Philippines to the fact that all civilized nations treat their animals with the same care and consideration as they treat human beings. It speaks ill of a people to permit maltreatment of their animals, and I hope that the public in general will cooperate with the Government in stopping this shocking evil.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Quezon on Social Justice, November 15, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Social Justice**

*[Delivered on the First Anniversary of the Commonwealth of the
Philippines at Malacañan Palace, Manila, November 15, 1936]*

Mr. High Commissioner, my Fellow-Citizens:

One year ago today, the Government of the Commonwealth was inaugurated. Through the choice of our people it was my privilege to head this new Government and to assume the responsibilities for a very difficult task. When on this same day a year ago, I took my oath of office, my heart was full of hope, but my mind of doubt, as to my ability to fulfill the duties imposed upon me by the newly born nation. Of one thing I was certain—my determination to do everything in my power to measure up to the expectations of my people. The rest I left in the hands of God. As I look back upon the year just passed, I feel that we have every right to be thankful to the Almighty for His Divine guidance and to you, my beloved countrymen, for your whole-hearted support and coöperation. It is with a deep sense of humility that I turn my eyes to Him at this moment to seek further light and protection, and to you for continued help in the remaining years of my administration. I shall not at this juncture undertake to enumerate the legislation enacted by our National Assembly in fulfillment of the pledges we have made to our people, nor the administrative measures and executive orders in conformity thereto. It is enough for me to say that in my opinion the National Assembly has made a record unequalled by any legislative body in the world in carrying out our preëlection commitments. And as for the record of my administration, it is for the future, and not for us to judge. On this occasion I shall devote myself entirely to one thought, which is my most serious concern.

Ladies and gentlemen, the task of establishing a new government is, indeed, a difficult one. But the mere setting up of the governmental mechanism and making it function efficiently is after all not beyond the reach of an ordinary man endowed with real common sense, some knowledge of constitutional law and an honest purpose and a strong will. To establish a new government in our day, when a great social revolution is taking place and new ideas and ideals are gripping the imagination and emotions of the masses, demanding the recognition of rights which have been ignored and denied by governments since the dawn of civilization, only governments that have sufficient vision to see this world-wide change, and wisdom to meet it fearlessly and squarely, can survive.

We are not building a nation to last during our hours and a few succeeding generations. My task—that which you have confided in me—is not only set up the Government of the Commonwealth that will last but for ten years, but to lay the foundations for the government of an independent state that will last as long as the world lasts, and, therefore, it is my duty to foresee the future and to adopt a course that will meet the problems of the new day. The time is past when we can blissfully ignore the lot of the man and woman who toils in the soil or who works in the factories. The time is past when any government can feel secure without the full support and coöperation of the masses of the people—coöperation coming not from a sense of duty only, much less from fear, but coöperation which is the result of devotion for and loyalty to their government engendered by a sense of satisfaction and happiness which their government has insured for them. The Government of the Philippines has the rare privilege and opportunity of learning from the experience of much older nations. The problem of our age is how to harmonize property right with the right to live—and the right to live is paramount and above every other right. *[Applause.]* In pagan Rome it was proclaimed that the right of a man to his property meant not only the right to use it but the right to abuse it. “*Jus utendi et abutendi.*” But that was a proper concept of right before the Son of Man laid down as the supreme law of human relations: “Love thy neighbor as thyself. Do unto others what you would that others do unto

you.” It is here where pagan and Christian civilizations conflict. The former is the philosophy of selfishness; the latter of love and justice. No Christian people should admit, much less practice, the theory that he who has can abuse or misuse his possessions. What we have in excess of our needs and reasonable luxuries should be spent *pro bono publico*. The struggle that we see everywhere is between those who have and those who have not; the former trying to keep everything they have, mindless of the misery of those who have not; the latter trying to take away everything from those who have, forgetting that they have worked for it and are entitled to the fruit of their labor whether manual or mental. The task of our Government is not only to protect the right of those who have to the proper use and enjoyment of their property, but also to demand that those who have not received the fruits of their labor in its integrity should have sufficient for their needs and those of their dependents. It is time for us to sound the warning: Let no one believe that he can still continue exploiting his fellow men without in the end suffering from it. He who owns had better give a part of what he owns to the community in which he lives if he wants to conserve the rest for him. [*Applause.*]

It is my ambition that this new nation will be able to undertake changes in its national economy, in its industrial and agricultural organizations, looking toward the betterment of the working class without depriving capital of its rights, without endangering our social and political institutions, and all in the midst of peace and order, by coöperation between all the elements of the community and in the spirit of the Nazarene—Love thy neighbor. Democracy offers the means to solve this problem; a properly understood and directed democracy.

We are laying the foundations for a nation that will live not ten years, not a century, but as long as the world lasts, and I call upon every man and woman of my country on this first anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth to coöperate with us in our efforts to bring about a situation that will insure the existence of this nation forever.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the First Anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, November 15, 1936

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the First Anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, Manila, November 15, 1936]

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Mr. High Commissioner, my Fellow-Citizens:

One year ago today, the Government of the Commonwealth was inaugurated. Through the choice of our people it was my privilege to head this new Government and to assume the responsibilities for a very difficult task. When on this same day a year ago, I took my oath of office, my heart was full of hope, but my mind of doubt, as to my ability to fulfill the duties imposed upon me by the newly born nation. Of one thing I was certain—my determination to do everything in my power to measure up to the expectations of my people. The rest I left in the hands of God. As I look back upon the year just passed, I feel that we have every right to be thankful to the Almighty for His Divine guidance and to you, my beloved countrymen, for your whole-hearted support and cooperation. It is with a deep sense of humility that I turn my eyes to Him at this moment to seek further light and protection, and to you for continued help in the remaining years of my administration. I shall not at this juncture undertake to enumerate the legislation enacted by our National Assembly in fulfillment of the pledges we have made to our people, nor the administrative measures and executive orders in conformity thereto. It is enough for me to say that in my opinion the National Assembly has made a record unequalled by any legislative body in the world in carrying out our preelection commitments. And as for the record of my administration, it is for the future, and not for us to judge. On this occasion I shall devote myself entirely to one thought, which is my most serious concern.

Ladies and gentlemen, the task of establishing a new government is, indeed, a difficult one. But the mere setting up of the governmental mechanism and making it function efficiently is after all not beyond the reach of an ordinary man endowed with real common sense, some knowledge of constitutional law and an honest purpose and a strong will. To establish a new government in our day, when a great social revolution is taking place and new ideas and ideals are gripping the imagination and emotions of the masses, demanding the recognition of rights which have been ignored and denied by governments since the dawn of civilization, only governments that have sufficient vision to see this world-wide change, and wisdom to meet it fearlessly and squarely, can survive.

We are not building a nation to last during our hours and a few succeeding generations. My task—that which you have confided in me—is not only to set up the Government of the Commonwealth that will last for ten years, but to lay the foundations for the government of an independent state that will last as long as the world lasts, and, therefore, it is my duty to foresee the future and to adopt a course that will meet the problems of the new day. The time is past when we can blissfully ignore the lot of the man and woman who toils in the soil or who works in the factories. The time is past when any government can feel secure without the full support and cooperation of the masses of the people—cooperation coming not from a sense of duty only, much less from fear, but cooperation which is the result of devotion for and loyalty to their government engendered by a sense of satisfaction and happiness which their government has insured for them. The Government of the Philippines has the rare privilege and opportunity of learning from the experience of much older nations. The problem of our age is how to harmonize property right with the right to live—and the right to live is paramount and above every other right. /Applause./ In pagan Rome it was proclaimed that the right of a man to his property meant not only the right to use it but the right to abuse it. “Jus utendi et abutendi.” But that was a proper concept of right before the Son of Man laid down as the supreme law of human relations: “Love thy neighbor as thyself. Do unto others what you would that others do unto you.” It is here where pagan and Christian civilization conflict. The former is the philosophy of selfishness; the latter of love and justice. No Christian people should admit, much less practice, the theory that he who has can abuse or

misuse his possessions. What we have in excess of our needs and reasonable luxuries should be spent pro bono publico. The struggle that we see everywhere is between those who have and those who have not; the former trying to keep everything they have, mindless of the misery of those who have not; the latter trying to take away everything from those who have, forgetting that they have worked for it and are entitled to the fruit of their labor whether manual or mental. The task of our Government is not only to protect the right of those who have to the proper use and enjoyment of their property, but also to demand that those who have not received the fruits of their labor in its integrity should have sufficient for their needs and those of their dependents. It is time for us to sound the warning: Let no one believe that he can still continue exploiting his fellow men without in the end suffering from it. He who owns had better give a part of what he owns to the community in which he lives if he wants to conserve the rest for him. /Applause./

It is my ambition that this new nation will be able to undertake changes in its national economy, in its industrial and agricultural organizations, looking toward the betterment of the working class without depriving capital of its rights, without endangering our social and political institutions, and all in the midst of peace and order, by cooperation between all the elements of the community and in the spirit of the Nazarene—Love thy neighbor. Democracy offers the means to solve this problem; a properly understood and directed democracy.

We are laying the foundations for a nation that will live not ten years, not a century, but as long as the world lasts, and I call upon every man and woman of my country on this first anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth to cooperate with us in our efforts to bring about a situation that will insure the existence of this nation forever.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon on Woman Suffrage, November 25, 1936 SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

[Delivered before the Delegates to the Sixth Biennial Convention of
the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines
at Malacañan Palace, Manila, November 25, 1936]

Mrs. Lim, my dear Ladies:

The Constitution requires a certain number of affirmative votes before women can exercise the privilege to vote. The framers of the Constitution have been very wise, for, after all, people are not entitled to enjoy a privilege or a right unless they are interested in it. And so, when the Constitution, or rather, the framers of the Constitution demanded that before you are given the right to vote a definite number of qualified women electors so expressed themselves affirmatively, their purpose was to see whether the women are interested or not in acquiring such privilege.

There are many women who do not believe in suffrage. This does not happen exclusively in the Philippines. There has always been opposition to woman's suffrage in every country where it is recognized. There are some who believe that women's activities should be directed in other lines. Some women fear that their participation in politics may mean a deviation from that course of conduct which is demanded by the high concept that we have of womanhood.

There are also many excessively conservative men—men who cling to things of the past—who are hesitant, if not afraid, of conferring new things on the women.

We have, however, to face the future with confident hope.

In your efforts to get a sufficient number of women voters, there will be a group working against you. You should not be surprised or disgusted. You can give no better evidence of your preparation for the discharge of democratic obligations than to show your tolerance of ideas that are not exactly like yours.

But I say, I do think that because of the forces opposing this movement, you ought to intensify your campaign. It is a question not only of convincing all the women to vote, but also of pointing out that it is their duty to do so in order that they may contribute to the improvement of politics as well as of social conditions in our country. It is a question of convincing them that to give their attention to public questions does not mean abandonment of their immediate duties; that it is possible for a woman to be a perfect woman even if she makes speeches for a given candidate or a given subject.

To be sure, there will be some individuals of your sex who would go to the extreme, but that ought not to be considered as evidence that the rest will do the same.

This Government being determined to carry out a policy which means everything to our country—the policy of social justice, I wish to emphasize the necessity not only of the Filipino women's taking part in the discussion of political questions in the Philippines, but also of exercising their influence in their respective localities.

Women, if given a share in the administration of our Government, can do more towards the promotion of social justice in the Philippines than when such a task is left in the hands of men alone, for women have a keener sense of justice than men.

The time has arrived when the poor workers in the fields and factories in the Philippines must be given their due, for if they are not it will not be long before we will see repeated in the Philippines what we see in so many countries of the world today.

Our Government, our communities have to face the greatest revolution that has ever taken place since the dawn of civilization. It is the revolution that has shaken Russia, China, and Spain. In the Philippines, although we do not yet see blood running in the streets, our men are no longer willing to be exploited, nor will they any longer permit that the fruits of their labor be taken away from them.

It is not a question of enacting laws and complying with their provisions. Rather than establish social justice, it is more important to educate the people. The need of the hour consists in arousing their sentiment so that they could see that in what the worker is fighting for against the master simple justice is involved.

There was a time when my political enemies, either in good or bad faith, claimed that my advocacy of the rights of the poor was hypocritical, and that I had no real interest, but that I simply needed their votes. Now they cannot make that charge successful. Not only am I not a candidate, but also I cannot be a candidate, for, according to our Constitution, I can not seek my re-election.

Yet now, after I have been elected President, despite this accusation, my whole attention is directed towards the welfare of the more unfortunate portion of our citizenry.

As a result of what we are trying to do, we feel kindly towards those elements of our community for whom we are working, and as a consequence we hope to be able to create between employer and employee a feeling of mutual confidence.

It is only when the people of one country feel that in their respective stations they are getting a fair deal from the Government that they can be said to be happy. And the Government can depend on them that they would be ready to defend their country.

People no longer long for a country simply because they were born there. They must see and feel that in that country they enjoy a happy life, that they have every opportunity to improve their lot.

It is my ambition that every Filipino should love and be proud of his country. And this ambition makes me wish to have every Filipino enjoy the immense wealth with which the Creator has endowed this country.

I want you to win the vote so as to gain your support in this difficult task of having social justice reign supreme here without the necessity of public disturbance, of public disorder, and through the coöperation of all.

You can count on my support in your campaign for the success of the plebiscite on woman suffrage.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Sino-Philippine Friendship, December 12, 1936

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SINO-PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP

[Delivered at a Dinner in His Honor at Canton, China, December 12,
1936]

The warm welcome which you have accorded us since our arrival in this great city, reaching its climax with this sumptuous banquet, has touched me deeply, and I take it, rather than as a personal tribute, as an evidence of the goodwill of the Government and people of China towards the Government and people of the Philippines. I beg to assure you that I shall cherish the memory of this visit as long as I live.

Many years ago I set foot for the first time in Canton, and while at that time I was not accorded the official reception that is given me today, I consider that visit as one of the most memorable in my life. I came then with but one purpose—to meet and pay my homage to Dr. Sun Yat Sen, whom I had admired since my youth, not only as one of the greatest patriots of all time, but also as a notable exponent of the principles and doctrines of democracy. Dr. Sun Yat Sen then sent a general to meet me at the station and escort me to his residence where I spent practically the whole day, having lunched with him. At that luncheon the well-known statesman of China, Dr. Wu Ting Fang, was present.

Gentlemen, the ties of friendship and commercial intercourse binding China and the Philippines antedate any other intercourse that we have had with the Occident. Long before Magellan touched upon one of the islands of the Visayan group of the Philippine Archipelago, Chinese merchants and farmers had already come to the Philippines and brought to our ancestors the benefits of Chinese culture. Today the largest foreign population in the Philippines is Chinese, some of the most prosperous merchants among us are Chinese, and the retail trade of our country is practically in the hands of your people. It is my pleasure to inform you that the relations between the Chinese in the Philippines and our people are characterized by a spirit of mutual helpfulness and friendship.

From the date of the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth the people of my country, for the first time in centuries, have enjoyed the right to govern themselves on all matters of purely domestic concern. It has been the policy of my Government not only to maintain but also to improve relations with China. As I suppose you know, the Exclusion Act of the Congress of the United States has been in force in the Philippines and is still in force today. But in the last session of our National Assembly I recommend that an act be passed repealing the law which allows no Chinese immigrants to enter the Philippines. The National Assembly, due to pressure of business, was unable at that time to pass this law, but I have no doubt that it will do so at its coming regular session.

There is really no reason for the existence of a law in the Philippines allowing Europeans, Americans, and Japanese to immigrate, but at the same time denying the Chinese this privilege. We are of the Oriental race and we are in the Orient, and the exclusion of the Orientals from our country seems to be wholly unjustified. However, you will understand that while we are going to open our gates to you we cannot, for economic reasons, permit an unlimited and unqualified immigration of Chinese into the Philippines any more than we can permit that of any other people. There is a great deal of unemployment in my country and abundance of labor both in the factories and on farms, and unrestricted immigration would inevitably cause hardship, if not starvation, to our working people. In removing the prohibition against Chinese immigration, it is our sole purpose to place the Chinese in the Philippines on an equal

basis with any other foreigner. In fact, if we were to grant privileges, and such privileges naturally must be based upon some reasonable ground, the Chinese, among the foreigners, would be entitled to such privileges by virtue of their long association with our people and the contribution they have made to our progress and development.

China is bound to be one of the greatest powers. Potentially she is that today. In the Orient her population and her resources make her a nation that must be reckoned with in the future. The Philippines is a new country. We are just emerging from the state of dependency into that of complete statehood, which will reach its climax in the establishment of an independent republic nine years hence, if not sooner. It is both our earnest desire and convenience that China should be our friend and collaborator, and we hope that these sentiments are shared equally by our people and your Government. Let me, therefore, drink to the health of Your Excellencies and to the perpetual friendship and coöperation of China and the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on Devotion to Duty, December 13, 1936 Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Devotion to Duty**

[Delivered at the Canton Military Academy, Canton, China,
December 13, 1936]

General Yu, Professors and Students of the Military Academy:

It is a privilege to meet you and see this very promising Military College.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the choice you have made of your life work. Of all the professions, that of a soldier is the noblest. Its very essence is self-sacrifice and devotion to duty. In every other profession, of course, a man can be of service to his community and to his nation, but the soldier, from the moment he embraces his profession, is dedicated exclusively to the defense and protection of his motherland and of his people. This is especially true when his country is in the process of asserting its national rights, when its territorial integrity is menaced, or when it is actually at war.

China, since the fall of the Empire, has been in a period of reconstruction and self-assertion, and those of us who have been watching with sympathetic interest the efforts which you have been exerting to win the recognition of your rights as an independent nation, have derived no little satisfaction in the progress which you are making in this difficult and noble task. We in the Philippines rejoice over your success. We want to see China occupying her rightful place in the concert of nations, not only because we believe in the right of every people to be independent, but also because we know that the independence of China means the triumph of the principles of democracy and equality—the principles and ideals for which your own Dr. Sun Yat Sen fought and died. He was not only a great national hero, but also a benefactor of humanity, for he believed and worked for those principles of government which make all men equal before the law and give the humblest citizen the opportunity to seek his own happiness and well-being.

Cadets of the Military Academy, you have before you a golden opportunity to render your people and your country a service which will cause your name to be inscribed in the roll of patriots and self-sacrificing men.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on maintenance by the United States of Naval Stations in the Philippines
(Extracts from The Tribune), December 19, 1936**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Maintenance by the United States of Naval Stations
in the Philippines (Extracts from The Tribune)**

[Released on December 19, 1936]

* * * *

“Such a treaty would not be incompatible with the maintenance by the United States of naval stations here. The part where the naval station would be established would be outside of the scope of the treaty.

“Now, whether it would be to the interest of the Philippines to have an American naval station here would depend on the attitude of the United States. If the establishment of a naval station would be made a part of, or be coincident with the maintenance of special trade relations, it would indicate a close association, at least an economic one. Such a position would justify the maintenance of naval stations here by the United States, and would be to the interest of both the Philippines and the United States, for the latter will be in a position to protect its trade routes,

“But if the United States is to have no further connection with the Philippines, I do not see any justification for naval stations, even from the American standpoint.

“I am not in a position, however, at this juncture to speak of the position we may take. This is a matter to be considered when the question comes up.”

Source: University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Address of President Quezon on National Defense, January 18, 1937

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

NATIONAL DEFENSE

[Delivered before the assembled R. O. T. C. Units, Campus of the
University of the Philippines, Manila, January 18, 1937]

Gentlemen of the Reserve Officers Training Corps:

You have made me very happy today. You have given me one of the greatest thrills of my life. On the eve of my departure for abroad on an errand which will be of far-reaching consequences to our people, you stand before me 6,000 strong, the very pick of our colleges and universities wearing the distinguished uniform of the soldier and receiving your military training in accordance with the directions of the first legislative enactment of the Government of the Commonwealth.

I am not here to convince you that the first and most important duty of our Government, and of every one of its citizens, is the defense of the State against foreign aggression, internal rebellion, or domestic lawlessness. That is clearly stated in the declaration of principles, Article II, section 2, of our Constitution. That is a principle which every Filipino today, with very few and dishonorable exceptions, has well ingrained in his mind and in his heart, and in none more than in you, as evidenced by the fact that you are receiving with enthusiasm your military training, in preparation for the performance of your duty to defend your country if and when the necessity shall arise.

Rather am I here to voice my indignation at the attempts that have been made to misrepresent what this Government is doing and its objectives in the preparation of its national defense. Not that I have the slightest fear that such misrepresentations will have any effect upon the public mind in our country, or that they may deter our Government from carrying out its most important task, for the world may rest assured that the Filipino people are determined to become an independent nation and to rely upon their own resources and man power to maintain their territorial integrity and national rights.

No organization in the United States whatever high-sounding name it may bear, no man or group in the Philippines under any guise whatever, can stop us from going ahead with our plans to insure the safety of our country and to uphold its dignity and self-respect.

But it is well that our purpose be properly understood. We are a new nation soon to take our place in the international brotherhood of independent states. It is our privilege—indeed, it is our duty—to reveal and make known to the world our ideals and aspirations as a people.

We are peace-loving. Our Constitution is the first modern Constitution which condemns war as an instrument of national policy and adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as a part of the fundamental law of the land. We have no desire, therefore, now or ever in the future, to use the armed forces of our country for the purposes of aggression, but only in the defense of the national territory and for the maintenance of peace and order within our borders.

In good or bad faith, through ignorance or malice, allegations are being made that we are “militarizing the Philippines,” that we are “sabotaging Filipino schools,” that our national defense program “amounts to a covert conspiracy to keep the United States in the Islands” or is “intended to strengthen the military power of America in the Western Pacific in the event of war with Japan.” On the other hand, it is also alleged that neither the Philippines nor the United States, nor both countries combined, can ever successfully defend this country, and we are told that we should rely upon the neutralization of the Philippines, guaranteed by international agreement, for the defense of our independence.

“MILITARIZING THE PHILIPPINES” (?)

The present strength of the Philippine Army, including the Constabulary, is 7,048 enlisted men and 439 regular officers. Of these, 4,551 are Constabulary soldiers and only 2,497 are doing other regular army service. The present military strength of the United States Army in the Philippines consists, of 10,251 enlisted men and 529 officers, including Filipinos in the service of the United States. Our plan, when realized, will give the regular Philippine Army force, including the Constabulary, a maximum strength of only 10,000 enlisted men.

You can readily see that our maximum regular army force will not exceed, even after the attainment of independence, the present strength of the United States Army in the Philippines. How can anyone, therefore, in good faith, say that the national defense plan, as provided in Commonwealth Act No. 1, is militarizing the Philippines?

In the past, when the charge was made that a nation was militaristic, the indictment was based upon the fact that there was in that nation a big regular military force constituting a privileged class which absorbed, or attempted to absorb, the supreme direction of the policies of the State.

Who can seriously contend, that in our rapidly growing nation, now already of at least fifteen million people, a mere ten thousand regular soldiers—some engaged in police duty and others in ordinary military tasks—can ever constitute a special privileged class that can rule the country?

Under the National Defense Act, and under every law of the land, the Army is subject to civil authority, and the supreme command of the armed forces of the nation is placed by constitutional mandate in a civilian elected by the people every six years and without right to reelection—the President of the Philippines. The Philippine Army is fully conscious of its duty to obey the direction of civil authority. The Philippine Army knows that its paramount duty is to uphold the law and to maintain peace and order, under the direction and command of the Chief Executive of this Government.

Is it perchance,—and evidently it is,—the compulsory military training of our youth that is being branded as militarizing the Philippines? Our system of military training for our youth has been, in general, patterned after the system which for many years has been followed by a small country in Europe—Switzerland—the country which, despite its small territory and population, has maintained its national integrity and gained the respect of the most aggressive and militaristic nations of the world. No one has ever called Switzerland militaristic; in fact, she is the most democratic country in Europe and perhaps in the whole world today.

It is not a regular military force of tremendous size that we are building. It is a citizen army—an army that in time of peace will be devoted exclusively to the arts of peace and agriculture, to industry and trade, to letters and sciences, to every activity that makes for progress, for harmony and goodwill, for human advancement and well-being. The military training we are giving our youth is intended, not only to train them in the effective use of arms for the defense of the motherland, but also to indoctrinate them with those civic virtues which make for better soldiers in time of war and for better citizens in time of peace.

We need to make our people, especially our youth, conscious of their oneness, jealous of their democracy, and proud of their race and nationality,—so conscious and proud of all these, so devoted to their country, that they will die fighting for it.

“SABOTAGING THE SCHOOLS” (?)

Instead of sabotaging our schools, by preparing our youth to defend their country, we are actually giving them a fuller and more comprehensive training. We are training them in the art of peace and in the science of war.

Here again we are complying with the mandate contained in Article XIII, Section 5, of our Constitution.

Under the National Defense Act, as soon as a boy reaches the age of ten he begins to receive training in the duties of citizenship, in addition to his vocational instruction. It is scarcely one year since we began the military training of our youth, and already the wholesome effect of this training is being felt in every household where a member of the family is receiving military instruction. Rich parents have told me how their sons, who heretofore have never cared to do anything for themselves but have always expected their servants to attend to their clothing, now get out of bed early in the morning, shine their shoes and their brass buttons, and press their clothes, so that they may appear presentable at their scheduled military parades and exercises. The bearing and behavior of these young men are now more assertive and dignified. Indeed, the whole country, within the brief period of one year, has been electrified by the realization of our new obligation to rely upon ourselves entirely for the protection of the motherland.

We are charged with diverting school funds to military purposes. Yet almost coincident with the establishment of the Commonwealth, we have provided additional revenue from a new source, to be used exclusively for school purposes. Some two million pesos of cedula tax will be turned over to our schools this year, in addition to the usual annual appropriation of more than fourteen million pesos.

The wisdom of this tax lies in the fact that as the school population increases with the growth of our people, this revenue also increases.

“COVERT CONSPIRACY TO KEEP THE UNITED STATES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

The most ridiculous charge made against our National Defense plan is that it is a covert conspiracy to keep the United States in the Philippines. On what ground? Upon what sound logic, may it be inferred that training the Filipinos to defend themselves is a covert conspiracy to keep the United States in the Philippines? Is it not, on the contrary, the best evidence that we are getting ready to depend upon ourselves for our protection, and not upon the United States? In other words, is not our Defense Plan positive proof that we are preparing the nation to assume all the responsibilities of independent statehood? Was not the main argument propounded against Philippine independence the fact that the Filipinos had no army, had no means to defend themselves against foreign aggression? It would certainly be more logical to say that those who are against carrying out the National Defense plan are the ones conspiring to keep the United States in the Philippines. They are the covert enemies of Philippine independence, because they want to perpetuate our present helpless situation and thus depend upon American protection forever.

The selection of Field Marshal Douglas MacArthur as Military Adviser to the Government of the Commonwealth is being pointed out as proof that our National Defense plan aims to give the United States a big army in the Philippines with which to wage war against Japan.

Gentlemen of the Reserve Officers Training Corps: Upon my word of honor I want to say to you that the idea of making Field Marshal MacArthur a Military Adviser to the Government of the Commonwealth in the preparation of our National Defense came originally from me, and no one, either American or Filipino, has ever suggested the thought, much less Field Marshal MacArthur himself.

On a previous occasion I stated how the selection of General MacArthur as Military Adviser came about, but it well bears repetition at this time. When I saw that the Tydings-McDuffie Law was about to be passed by Congress, and the Philippine dream of independence thus converted into a reality, my immediate concern was how to maintain that independence once we had achieved it. So I went to the office of General MacArthur, then the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and asked him pointedly this question: “General, do you think that the Philip pines, once independent, can defend itself? If you cannot give me an honest and direct answer, please ignore the question.” The General said: “I don’t think that the Filipinos can defend themselves, I know they can. By this I mean,” he

proceeded to explain, “that you can organize such defense as will make the conquest of the Philippines so expensive and so costly in life and money that no nation in its senses will attempt to do it.”

Then I asked the General again: “Would you be willing, General, to undertake the study, preparation and execution of a plan of national defense for the Philippines? And do you think you can do it within the limited resources of the country, bearing in mind the other important and unavoidable obligations of a progressive modern government?”

The General then asked me, before answering my question: “Can you spend yearly nine million pesos more than you are now spending for the Constabulary?”

Upon giving him an affirmative answer to his question, the General then said: “I am willing to undertake this task of preparing your people to defend themselves alone against foreign invasion, and I shall be very glad to undertake it as a duty to my own Government and people. America is committing to grant the Filipino people their independence. To my mind, this duty involves not only the granting of that independence, but it also implies the duty of giving you every assistance so that you may make that independence secure in your hands, for you and for every succeeding generation.”

This is the conversation which, with the subsequent consent of the President of the United States and under authority given the President by Congress through an Act which was passed upon my own request, brought General MacArthur to the Philippines, and gave the Commonwealth as Military Adviser one of the greatest soldiers of our time.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE PLAN “INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY POWER OF AMERICA IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC”

The charge that our National Defense plan is “intended to strengthen the military power of America in the western Pacific in the event of war with Japan” is not only groundless, in every respect, but also mischievous.

It presupposes that the idea of adopting a National Defense plan originated from American sources, that is to say, that wittingly or unwittingly we have been induced by the Government of the United States to give military training to our male population in order that America may be in a better position to fight Japan in the event of a war between them.

The first question that comes to mind is this: Is the alleged strengthening of America for purposes of aggression or for defense? Even a lay mind can see that no amount of army training or military organization in the Philippines can make of this country an effective instrument for attack against Japan. The Japanese Navy lies between America and the Philippines, and before America can send to the Islands transports to carry the Philippine Army to invade Japan, the Japanese Navy must first be destroyed. Once destroyed, it would be cheaper, easier and quicker if America used its own army to invade Japan than if she had to send her transports to the Philippines to pick up our army and then carry it to Japan. And America, be it remembered, is not so lacking in man power as to have need of our soldiers. Even on its very face, the absurdity of using the Philippine citizen army to attack Japan is evident. If, on the other hand, the implication is that our National Defense program will make it less difficult for America to defend the Philippines in the event of a war with Japan, the answer is that, if the Philippines are to be attacked and invaded by any army, it is the duty of the Filipinos to defend their own country.

The fact that America is still the sovereign in the Philippines does not relieve us of the duty of defending our own country, especially after the United States has proclaimed to the world that the Philippines will be independent on the 4th of July, 1946.

Every Filipino should bear in mind that, in the Independence Act, America has unqualifiedly decreed that her sovereignty over the Philippines will be withdrawn, and Philippine independence recognized on the 4th of July immediately following the expiration of the period of ten years from the date of the inauguration of the Commonwealth. Morally and legally, then, the United States cannot regain her sovereignty over the Philippines after

the 4th of July, 1946, except with the consent of the Filipino people. And every Filipino should realize that, if, prior to our independence, there were war between the United States and any other country, and as a consequence thereof the Philippines were to fall in the hands of the enemy, the latter might repudiate the grant of independence made by America. Our National Defense program is not, therefore, intended to strengthen America but to strengthen the Philippines.

Now let us look from another angle at the charge that our National Defense program aims at the strengthening of America as against Japan. If America has in mind to use our man power for purposes of attack or defense against Japan, why is America “militarizing the Philippines” only after she had made up her mind to give us independence on a certain fixed date, and not at all during the last thirty-five years? And why does the completion of the adopted National Defense program coincide precisely with the establishment of the Philippine Republic nine years hence?

Furthermore, and since Japan is pointed out by our critics as America’s objective in this program, what is there in the air that may give serious apprehension as to the future relations of America and Japan? If our National Defense program had been prepared before or soon after the enactment of the anti-Japanese Immigration Law, or during the controversy regarding the interpretation of the Nine Power and Washington Treaties perhaps, then an extremely suspicious mind may say that America was preparing the Philippines against Japan; but now that American-Japanese relations are friendlier than they have been for many years, what is there to justify the suspicion that America has planned the Philippine National Defense to strengthen herself in case of war against Japan? Nothing, of course, except the fact that some imaginations are hopelessly wild and certain minds inherently dishonest.

“THE PHILIPPINES CANNOT BE DEFENDED”

On the one hand our critics cry against an alleged tremendous military program which is likely to endanger the peace of the Orient, and in the same breadth make the positive assertion that the Philippines cannot be defended against Japan either by the Filipinos alone, by the United States, or by the combined strength of both countries.

In the first place, let me say right here and now that we are not preparing the Philippines to defend themselves against Japan, or any other country in particular. The Japanese people are our friends. Their government has never done anything in the past that would indicate its desire to interfere with us in the future. Why should there be the constant suspicion that once we are independent Japan will attempt to conquer us?

The Japanese menace is the bugaboo with which opponents of Philippine independence tried to convince America to stay indefinitely in the Islands in violation of her solemn pledge, and with which they tried to frighten the Filipinos into renouncing their most sacred right to be a free and independent nation.

We are preparing ourselves against no one country in particular but against each and every country in general. That is our duty more than it is our right. That is the duty of every self-respecting and freedom-loving people.

Now, we are told that the Philippines are indefensible, and upon this theory our National Defense program is branded as a waste of money, time, and energy.

I am no professional soldier, and therefore in no position to assert, as my own earnest and strong conviction, that our National Defense program offers a complete guarantee of peace and security, both from internal disorder and external aggression. I do not know enough of the science and art of war to be able to come to any conclusion of my own on this question. All I can say, in this regard, is that I have sought the opinion of the most competent man—Field Marshal Mac-Arthur—to give me advice thereon. I believe in him and his opinion I accept fully. He told me, and he told our people, that when our National Defense program has reached full fruition, the cost of conquering the Philippines—in men and money—would be incomparably greater than the possible advantages and benefits to be derived from such a conquest. That’s enough for me to go on ahead with. Conquest, in our materialistic age, is only motivated by national self-interest. We are then amply protected if our defense is sufficiently strong to give no inducement to the greedy.

But I will go further and say: Admitting that the Philippines cannot protect herself even with all our defense program, and that sooner or later our country is destined to fall into the hands of a first-class military power, I would still go ahead and spend the money and time and energy we are now spending to give our youth military training. I would go ahead with our present program, because I would not renounce, voluntarily, our birthright to be free and independent. This right I deem the greatest, the most sacred right of every people, and would not abjectly surrender it. I would fight a desperate, a losing fight to defend it. We might be vanquished but we would keep our self-respect; we would at least show that our people deserve to be free because they love freedom and love it enough to accept the supreme sacrifice for it. The history of our country has taught us this lesson.

Our fathers—and some of us are still living—did exactly the same thing. We fought Spain and we fought America for our national freedom. We lost to America but we won her respect and admiration; we established in deeds writ in blood our right to independence. And America—a lover of freedom herself—has recognized our right to be free.

I am ready to follow the footsteps of our fathers. But I want to do better than they did. I was in the war against America. That was no war; that was slaughter, pure and simple. We had no weapons to speak of and did not know how to use the few that we had. Our army had no discipline, no organization. We had men willing to die, and thousands upon thousands died heroically; others, only through a miracle survived. We fought only to die, for we were not trained nor equipped to kill. If again we are ever to fight for our homes and our families and our beloved fatherland, we must fight not only with the willingness to die, but also with the ability to kill. No nation shall ever again have the Philippines except after it has paid a tremendous toll in life and treasure. No army shall ever again land on our shores unmolested, and in parade formation, meeting almost no resistance, take possession of our towns. That is a thing of the past. It will never be repeated as long as in Filipino veins runs blood and not water.

I will go further and say more. Supposing I knew positively that no country will ever attempt or care to attack the Philippines, supposing that in my sleep it was divinely revealed to me that the Filipinos are the chosen people of the twenty-first century who, unlike the chosen people of the Old Testament, shall be free from conquest and war—I would yet go ahead and give our youth military training in our schools from the age of ten, exactly as it is provided in the National Defense Act, because with this training we could have, even in time of peace, more efficient workers, more capable professionals, more law-abiding and patriotic citizens.

This is indeed what military training will do for us. Primarily it will give our country better and more capable citizens; and only if and when necessity arises—efficient and gallant soldiers. That is why we are not building a big professional army but a citizen army—an army of peace and for peace—for progress, for civilization, and for the improvement of our people.

NEUTRALIZATION

Some Filipinos who are in the habit of acting as our national mentors have come out lately to tell us what to do. “Give up,” they say, “the National Defense program and rely for our security only upon the neutralization of the Islands guaranteed by international agreement.”

These are men who believe that they are born to speak ex cathedra. They live above the clouds and occasionally come down to us, appearing in glory on the mount of Sinai. They are oblivious of what is going on in our world of mortals. They derive no lesson even from contemporary history.

The fact that nations, whose neutralities were guaranteed, have been attacked wantonly and laid to waste; that others, independent for centuries, have been conquered and subjugated by a stronger military power; that territories have passed from the hands of the weak to those of a stronger nation—these make no impression whatsoever on these men, but leave them exactly where they were—in their fool’s paradise. The fate of our nation, the liberty and well-being of our people, this blessed land of ours, they would entrust to the safekeeping of other people, never to their own.

Thank God, our people have never allowed such men to guide us in our struggle for national emancipation, nor accepted their judgment as sound and safe to be followed. Otherwise it is hard to say where the Philippines would be now; or what the political status of our country would be today.

It has been publicly stated that I have expressed myself unqualifiedly as being against neutralization, and in favor of American protectorate and naval stations. This is false. I am against American protectorate because I am for full and complete Philippine independence. Independence that is not complete is no independence except in name. And I care nothing for names—I am for the substance and the reality of things.

Nor have I declared myself unconditionally for American naval stations in the Islands. This is a matter which, under the Independence Act, is left for future negotiations between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Philippines. I am not, I cannot be, committed on this question one way or another at this time. I shall not express myself before the negotiations are started and without the advice of the National Assembly.

Neither am I altogether against the neutralization of the Philippines; but I place very little value to the guarantee of neutrality which may be given by the nations of the world. Let no one be so naive as to think that any nation will ever fight for the Philippines unless it is to that nation's own interest so to do, though it may have guaranteed our independence. And if it be to the interest of some nation to prevent another from taking the Philippines, that nation will fight the power attacking us—if she can do it successfully—guarantee or no guarantee. Let me add further—that if and when a nation does fight for us, she will not do it just for *love*.

It is well for any man who has no sworn public duty to perform, who is not bound by his office to make sure that a future independent Philippines will not be insulted or attacked, to be visionary. The President of the Philippines has the solemn obligation to safeguard the rights and interests of his people and he must meet this obligation conscientiously and realistically, to the best of his ability.

My friends, I shall detain you no longer. I want to express my great satisfaction and pride in your excellent appearance this evening. No other group of men ever faced a greater opportunity to grow in the service of their country than you, men of the Reserve Officers Training Corps. I congratulate you. The country is proud of you. Our people can look to the future with confidence. The enthusiasm with which you are receiving your military training is proof positive of your set resolve to live for your country and to die in defense of it.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Social Justice and National Defense, January 20, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

[Delivered at the Banquet Given by the President in Honor of Members of the Cabinet, the National Assembly, and Provincial Governors and Treasurers, Malacañan Palace, Manila, January 20, 1937.]

On the eve of my departure for the United States, I have invited you to this gathering to speak to you on certain matters which I consider important. In the first place, it seems necessary to give you an idea of how the Government will be run after my departure. Under the former Government, in the absence of the Governor-General, the Vice Governor-General took his place. This arrangement gave rise to the cry, when I first left the Philippines and announced that the executive powers would still be exercised by me, that it was a proof of my lack of confidence in the Vice President, and it was thought that I preferred to leave the responsibility for the Government in the hands of the Secretary to the President.

The Commonwealth Government is far different from the previous one. Then, in the absence of the Governor-General the Governor-General's powers could be exercised by the Vice Governor-General. An Act of Congress and another by the Philippine Legislature authorized this. The reason for this was that the Governor-General and the Vice Governor-General were appointive and were responsible to the President of the United States, who had the power to define the policy that his appointees were to follow, and hence it made no difference who carried out his policies, whether the Governor-General or the Vice Governor-General.

Under the Commonwealth Government, the powers of the different branches are clearly specified, and in general none of these organs of government can delegate to other powers conferred on it by the Constitution. The Assembly, for example, cannot delegate to the Chief Executive any of its legislative powers, except in cases authorized by the Constitution. The courts cannot delegate their powers to the executive or legislative branches. Nor can the Chief Executive delegate to another the powers which the Constitution confers on no other officer of the Government.

The practice in the United States and in other independent countries, when the chief of the state, for any reason, has to leave the national territory, is for him to continue assuming the responsibility and exercise of the powers that correspond to the executive branch. In the United States exists the precedent of President Theodore Roosevelt's visit to the Canal Zone and to the republic of Panama. During his absence the Vice President was not acting President. When President Taft went to Mexico and was the guest of the President of that country the Vice-President was not acting President, either. The instance that best parallels the present case is that one when President Wilson left for Europe to take part in the deliberations over the treaty of Versailles. The absences of President Wilson were rather prolonged but during those times neither the vice President nor any member of the Cabinet acted as President in his stead. And when the session of Congress ended and there arose the necessity of acting on measures approved by that body, President Wilson found it necessary to rush back to America, to exercise the constitutional powers which he could not delegate to the Vice President or to any member of the Cabinet. There is still a more recent case—that one when President Franklin D. Roosevelt went to Buenos Aires. It is not, therefore, a lack of confidence in the Vice President, as in the cases above cited, which prevented me from delegating then and now the constitutional functions conferred on me as President of the Philippines.

In Europe, in countries under constitutional monarchies, the heads of the states are the prime ministers. When the prime ministers of Europe leave their countries, they are not allowed, either, to delegate to any member of their cabinets the powers conferred upon them.

The Government of the Philippines can function during my absence and will function exactly as in my presence. The department heads will continue to decide matters which they now ordinarily settle. Where the sanction of the President is necessary, my approval can be easily obtained by cable. Questions which have to be submitted to the Cabinet will be decided by that body under the chairmanship of the Vice President. In the case of problems which, even in my presence, the Cabinet decides by itself, the usual procedure will be followed. Questions of national policy will be submitted to me first for consultation before decision by the Cabinet.

There need be no fear that affairs will be considerably delayed during my absence. Fortunately, besides telegraphy, we have a more rapid means of communication, the wireless telephone. While the President is out of the country he shall be represented by the Vice President in all acts and on occasions in which he should be present. In his own position, which is superior in rank to any other in the Philippines except that of the President, he shall be at the head of the Government of our country. I expect the Vice President to do more than this. I expect him, during my absence, not only to guard over the coöperation and efficiency of the Government of which he shall be the titular head, but I also expect him to be consulted by the Cabinet on questions which during my presence, are usually referred to me. If after an open discussion between them no decision is reached, the Vice President shall submit to me the result of the discussion for my consideration and decision. It is understood, of course, that the Secretary to the President, who even in my presence signs many papers for me, will continue exercising this function; and orders which are signed by the Secretary to the President, by order of the President, shall have the same value as if the President himself had signed them.

I expect the Government of the Philippines to function as smoothly in my absence as it does now. I want to show the world that we have a government here that can proceed on its own, that is efficient in all respects and under any circumstance. You are, gentlemen, the ones called upon to make the administrative machine work smoothly; I believe my faith in you is not misplaced, and during my absence I expect the country to continue enjoying the perfect peace and the well-being that it now has.

I shall proceed to other matters which I particularly wish to refer to the provincial governors. The first is the problem of national defense. Our national defense should be the first duty of the Government and this is said so even in the Constitution. I expect each provincial governor to comply with this duty with respect to his province and to co operate willingly in the execution of plans by the National Government in this matter.

Gentlemen, the question of our national defense is not a rhetorical question. It is a question which involves the very life of the nation and the honor of our people. Do you want to have a people that does not know how to defend itself? Do you want us to be considered a weakling people that deserves, instead of respect and consideration, only indifference and contempt?

We should not entertain illusions. Unfortunately, the facts show that no nation is respected unless it is capable of fighting for its rights. It is true that this is the law of might which should exist only amongst savages; but, unfortunately again, this law still predominates in international relationships. It is futile to talk here about immediate, absolute and complete independence, and, at the same time, trust to our luck, without attempting to utilize a system of national defense founded on the best methods that the modern science of war can offer.

Those who say that the organization of the national defense signifies the militarization of the country, speak without any foundation. We are organizing merely a small regular army, of 10,000 to 12,000 men, the while we are training a big number of Filipino citizens in the efficient operation of the rifle. How can 10,000 soldiers subdue 400,000 citizens who know how to use the rifle? Precisely, we are *not* instructing our citizens in the use of modern arms of war as professional soldiers, so that we may be free from the danger of militarism, so that in the event a military organization wants to impose on the Government or on the nation, it will have to contend with a citizenry that is prepared to fight and destroy it. This is our guaranty and this is one of the reasons for the military instruction which we are giving to our youth.

But at the same time that we are preparing our country's national defense, we should not forget another duty that is equally as important, and which is also consecrated in our Constitution: the duty to uphold social justice. It will serve us none, gentlemen, to instruct all the Filipinos in the use of arms, if, with it, we do not inculcate in the heart of the Filipino the love of the country in which he lives, so that he will be disposed to fight and die for it. The love of the citizen for his country should be not alone for the beauty of its panoramas nor for the riches of its soil. Love of country springs from the satisfaction one finds in living in it, from the intimate security in which one can live freely and quietly under a just government and where the natural resources of the country are the nation's own and for the good of all its inhabitants. The countries that have unjust governments, where the rights of the citizens are infringed upon, where the national resources are concentrated in a few hands—do not find, in case of national danger, the whole population ready to fight for it, because to this population the conquest of its country by another nation would mean the implantation of a just and more generous government. We, therefore, have to give to the Filipino nation a just government, an honest government.

With the national defense plan that we are organizing, we are sure to repel any foreign invasion only if the people,—who under the system we are adopting are the ones to fight,—are satisfied with our Government. The justice and well-being that they enjoy under the Government are what make it worth for them to fight and sacrifice. The greatest danger to the national defense that we are organizing is not a foreign invasion but a domestic rebellion. One can ride roughshod over an inert people not trained in the use of arms—but not over a people in which each citizen is trained in the use of a gun. Remember that we are training in the art of war thousands and thousands of young Filipinos, vigorous and hardy, who do not live on the Government but are professionals or employees of private companies, who are farmhands or factory workers; and these, specially the farmhands and factory workers, can become turbulent elements if they do not obtain just and fair treatment from the Government or from that part of society that benefits by their labor.

It is time that we open our eyes to realities and realize the actual state of the society in which we live. You, the provincial governors, and you, the members of the Assembly and of the Cabinet, should explain to that part of society that enjoys privileges and comforts that, if it wants to continue enjoying these privileges and comforts, it should give to the less fortunate part of our population a just share of the fruits to which it is entitled because of its honest labor. Domestic tranquillity in the Philippines can only be guaranteed by justice. All the military preparations that we are making with so much money and labor will not suffice to assure internal peace if the farmhand, the factory worker, and the small employee do not receive the wages due them and the share that is theirs by right of their labor.

I am talking about this now because now is the most opportune time—we are not being menaced by any danger of revolution. Fortunately for all, our country is peaceful and the few malcontents who are ill-advised should not cause us worry because we have effective means of dealing with them, in case they defy our Government and our laws. But we must begin now and not tomorrow—tomorrow may be too late. If we give the laborers good wages, if we give the farmhands the just participation which they deserve, if we treat the poor with the same respect as we do the rich and if at the same time, we teach our youth, besides their rights and duties of citizenship, the use of modern weapons for defense, we shall have here, gentlemen, an ideal country in the world—a country which every nation will respect and which nobody would dare invade, a country where we can lead a happy life—happy, because we shall feel the protective influence of the reign of social justice and the satisfaction of seeing our compatriots all equally happy and prosperous.

All that I have said may be reduced to two things: first, that what the country needs is a National Defense that can repel foreign invasion, and second social justice to promote domestic well-being. With both our justice and our national defense promoted, we shall have a country loved by its nationals and respected by foreigners.

The two things I have talked to you about involve constitutional obligations which must be complied with. The third problem which I shall submit to you involve no constitutional obligation, but I am deeply interested in it because its solution would make me very happy. I refer to woman suffrage. Not that I think that, with suffrage, the country will be saved from all calamities which might menace us in the future, nor that we shall be better or worse governed. As you must know, woman suffrage is now regarded as a right of woman in the majority of civilized countries. Before this time, when the question of woman suffrage was presented as a debatable subject in our legislative chambers, no interest was awakened abroad. Now, the entire world knows that the question of woman suffrage in this country is to

be submitted to a plebiscite, and if the results should be adverse, I am afraid that such results would cause disappointment in America and Europe. I appeal to you in favor of woman suffrage as a matter of justice to the women and as a matter of progressiveness for our country. I beg you to do all that you can for the triumph of woman suffrage this coming April.

Mr. Vice President, gentlemen: I place the Government of the Philippines in your hands: in the hands of the Vice President who shall be the visible head of the state and who shall represent me during my absence; in those of the Cabinet and provincial governors, and I am confident that all will be well. God bless us all, especially our people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Occasion of the Presentation of the Decoration of the Order of the Brilliant Jade to the President, January 28, 1937

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Occasion of the Presentation of the Decoration of the Order of the Brilliant Jade to the President**

[Delivered at Shanghai, China, January 28, 1937]

SINO-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

Your Honour, Mayor Wu, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This most gracious act on the part of the National Government of the Republic of China in conferring upon me the decoration of the Order of the Brilliant Jade, has touched me deeply; not so much because of the honor thus bestowed upon me, but because I take it as a token of the esteem and value given by the Government of this Republic to the friendship shown by my Government and my people towards the people of China. In fact, it is even more than that; it is a symbol of our long association running throughout history, marked by amity and cooperation between our two peoples. Centuries prior to the arrival of the Spaniards on Philippine shores, China and the Philippines traded with one another, and a large Chinese population even then resided in the Philippines and left marks of their influence in Philippine agriculture and industry, as well as in Philippine language and family life.

Today the largest foreign population in my country is composed of Chinese, who constitute a very substantial factor in our commerce, I am pleased to say that the Government of the Philippines has always found in our Chinese community law-abiding and civic-spirited citizens.

We are just emerging from a condition of tutelage to that of a self-governing people. Soon we shall take our rightful place in the family of independent nations. We seek and we need the friendship and good will of all the peoples of the world and we offer them ours in return. We have but one ambition—to be able to take our share, however modest, in the onward progress of mankind.

Mr. Mayor, under the Constitution of the Philippines, I am not at liberty to accept this decoration without the consent of our National Assembly, I am receiving it then from your hands to be kept by me in trust until such time as I shall have secured the consent of the National Assembly to accept it formally. I have no doubt that that permission will be forthcoming, as I am sure that the National Assembly and the Filipino people will consider it and receive it in the spirit in which it is given as a mark of distinction on the Chief Executive of the Philippine Islands, and, above all, as a symbol of the friendship of the Republic and people of China for the Government and people of the Philippines.

From Messages of the Pres. Vol. 3, Part I. (1938)

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Japanese-Philippine Relations, February 2, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

JAPANESE-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

[Delivered before the Philippine Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan,
February 2, 1937]

Viscount Okabe, Gentlemen of the Philippine Society of Japan:

I thank you, Viscount Okabe, for your very kind words. We are happy to be with you today and we are grateful for your generous hospitality which we accept not only as an expression of your friendship towards us but also of the good will of your people for our people.

The avowed policy of the United States to grant the Philippines their independence is now in the process of complete realization. The Government of the Commonwealth which has placed in the hands of the Filipino people all governmental powers concerning their domestic affairs while reserving for the United States the control of our foreign relations will, in due time, automatically become the Government of the Philippine Republic. This period of transition was deemed necessary in order that our people may fully prepare themselves to assume all the responsibilities of an independent nation.

It is incumbent upon us, therefore, at this time to take such a step as in our opinion may be necessary to insure the peace and prosperity of our people and to win the respect and good will of the world at large, through a careful regard for rights not only of our own nationals but also for the rights of the foreigners who are living in our midst or doing business with us.

For some time prior to and during the first few months after my inauguration as President of the Commonwealth, newspapers here, in the United States, and in the Philippines had been publishing from time to time news items regarding the so-called Japanese problem in Davao. I am happy to say that after a personal investigation that I made, I found that there was no such thing as the so-called Davao problem and I have so informed our National Assembly when it convened in its first regular session. From that time on nothing more has been said in the newspapers about that so-called problem.

Gentlemen, I want to assure you that Japanese in the Philippines will be more than amply protected in their rights by our government and that they will always receive every courtesy and consideration from our people. A geographical fact is as inflexible as a mathematical truth. Japan and the Philippines are neighbors and it is to their mutual interest that they be friends, and friendship can only be promoted through fair dealing and justice on both sides. The Philippine Society of Japan and its sister, the Philippine-Japan Society of Manila, can be very potent factors in cementing friendly relations between your people and my people.

With due regard to my friends, Mr. Takaishi and Doctor Romulo, I am constrained to say that sometimes careless publications in the daily press, whether in good or bad faith, can do no small amount of harm. On the other hand, the press can contribute much to the cause of good will amongst nations. Let the Philippine Society of Japan and the Philippine-Japan Society agree not to support every newspaper in this country or in mine that, whether in good or bad faith, print news items without verification that may arouse ill-feelings on either side or both you will render

very effective service to our respective countries. The intercourse between Japan and the Philippines antedates our association with any Occidental country, and to my knowledge this intercourse of many centuries between our peoples has never been marred in any way by the slightest misunderstanding.

Of late, there have been frequent visits to the Philippines by Japanese business men as well as members of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives. There have also been many Filipinos, both from public and private life, who have been sojourning in this beautiful country of yours. We even have started exchanging professors from our universities. This is a most wholesome tendency for as the number of Japanese that visit my country and the number of Filipinos that visit yours increase, the better will our people grow to like one another. It is but repeating a truism to say that knowledge produces understanding and understanding engenders amity.

I am confident, in fact, it is my earnest endeavor that in the future there will always be the heartiest cooperation between your people and my people in everything that means the progress and peace not only of this part of the world but also of mankind in general. We owe a debt of gratitude to the United States of America, but the recognition of this fact is not incompatible with our desire to be in harmonious relations with Japan, nor does this mean that we should deny the Japanese nationals any participation in the development of our country within the prescribed limits of our laws and Constitution. Quite the contrary, I for one sincerely believe that we will be doing a good service to America by being the friends of Japan just as we are rendering a good service to Japan by being grateful to America. Nay, I will say even more; every lover of peace and of humanity should see to it that these three nations understand one another and coöperate with each other.

I have only one complaint against my Japanese friends, and that is, that every time I come here I have to guard myself against the demands of your generous hospitality. Gentlemen, Japan has a very cold climate, but the heart of the Japanese is warm. I want to assure you that mine is warm also. I thank you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon at a banquet given in His Honor, February 5, 1937

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At a banquet given in His Honor**

[Delivered in Tokyo, Japan, February 5, 1937]

FILIPINO ATTITUDE TOWARD JAPAN

Mr. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I can find no adequate words with which to express my deep appreciation of the hospitality of His Excellency, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Madame Arita.

For many years I have been the recipient of the hospitality of my friends in Japan, and I can say truthfully that I feel almost at home in this wonderful country.

By a gracious act of the Government of the United States, we now have, in all matters affecting domestic affairs, a self-governing Commonwealth in the Philippines. Our foreign relations are still under the control of the United States, and will be until the day the Philippines become independent.

It is the duty of the Government of the Commonwealth to lay the foundations for the new nation, and it is my hope and earnest desire to so prove to the world the worthiness of our purpose in seeking membership in the international brotherhood of free states that, when the day of our complete separation from America shall have arrived, we shall be welcomed and given our rightful place in the family of nations.

Of course our first concern will be not only to keep but also to foster our friendly relations with the Government and people of the United States. No less can be expected of a grateful people that we are. We owe to America our freedom; she has contributed to our progress both cultural and materially.

As for our attitude toward the Government and people of this, our great neighbor Empire, deeds speak louder than words. Our association with Japan dates prior to the Spanish discovery of the islands. Some Japanese historians and ethnologists say that the founders of this nation are of the Malayan stock, the race to which my people belong. But regardless of any racial kinship, it is a historical fact that there has been friendly intercourse between Japan and the Philippines running through centuries past. In our own day Japan is taking part—and no mean one—in the material development of the Philippines. Thousands of Japanese subjects are now residing and doing business in the Philippines. Regardless of what newspapers may now and then say, I can assert, confident of no successful contradiction, that it is impossible to improve upon the relations prevailing between your people who are residing in my country and my government and people. As I see it, the Japanese in the Philippines expect to receive no special privileges; all they want is fair deal. And for our part I can assure you that this they are receiving and will always receive in full measure from our hands.

It is our earnest desire to always conserve the friendship and good will of the Japanese nation, and we are doing everything in our power to convince the people of Japan that we are their friends and well-wishers.

Our debt of gratitude to America, our friendship for the American people, do not preclude our being friends with the Empire. On the contrary, we think that to foster the friendly intercourse of these three nations should be the aim of wise statesmanship. Not only peace in the Far East, but also the cause of world peace will thus be promoted.

You are right, Mr. Minister, when you say that commercial relations between your people and my people are and will be in the interest of both. Our policy will be one affording equal opportunity to all who desire to take part in the development and improvement of our country and people. Only thus can we show the world that our claim to independent statehood is well founded.

The frequent visits of Japanese to the Philippines and of Filipinos to Japan, will, I have no doubt, make for greater confidence amongst our people and foster the friendship now so happily existing.

Mr. Minister and Madame Arita: The members of my party and I are profoundly grateful to Your Excellencies for your generous hospitality, and let me hope that we shall have the privilege of bidding you welcome in our country in the near future and of reciprocating this splendid demonstration of cordiality and friendship towards our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen: May I have the honor of proposing the health of His Excellency, the Foreign Minister, and Madame Arita.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon upon greeting the American People, February 14, 1937

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Upon greeting the American People**

[Delivered upon his Arrival at Los Angeles, California, February 14, 1937]

I am happy to be in the United States again. I have been here so often that I consider this country my second home. I am a regular commuter between Manila and Washington and New York. I bring with me not only the greetings of the Filipino people to the people of America, but also a message of gratitude for the great work accomplished in the Philippines by the altruism of the American nation culminating in the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. May the friendship now existing between your great country and mine endure forever.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at a Banquet given in His Honor on achievements of men

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At a Banquet given in His Honor on achievements of men**

[Delivered in Hollywood, California, February 15, 1937]

Art is at its best in a background of simplicity.

I come from a poor family and I like modesty and, really, the lure of power or of fame is nothing compared to the lure of friendship.

A life led without achievement is worthless, and only that life is livable that is dedicated to the achievement of a noble aim.

No Filipino can feel less than the deepest gratitude to the American people, and every American should be proud of the achievement of America in the Philippines.

Your Honor, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Not even in my native tongue can I adequately express my emotions today. I am happy that this affair is as simple as it is. I prefer this to an elaborate affair, for here I am with art and art is at its best in a background of simplicity. I am with the stars who live art, and I can ask for nothing more. We who must deal with the realities of a workaday world know that reality is not always pleasant. And today I am in the land of Make-Believe and it is indeed an oasis in the desert of a public man's life.

Really, Mr. Toastmaster, I prefer this informal luncheon, where I am surrounded by the stars of Moviedom, to a big banquet, with all the big "shots" of California, as you wanted to make it. I come from a poor family and I like modesty and, really, the lure of power or of fame is nothing compared to the lure of friendship, and that friendship I know I have among you who are here today.

You and I may be working in different spheres of human life, yet you and I are working toward the same goal. A life led without achievement is worthless, and only that life is liable that is dedicated to the achievement of a noble aim. We want to die leaving something behind us so that those who may come after may think of us kindly. That life which ends with death only is a life of frustration and futility, and that is not the life of the artist nor of the public man.

I thank you, Your Honor, for your kind words and for your goodwill and friendship for my people. I thank your city and your country also. Your country has done a great work in the Philippines and we are grateful for it. No Filipino can feel less than the deepest gratitude to the American people, and every American should be proud of the achievement of America in the Philippines.

We have linked with California since time immemorial. We were once governed by Spain through Mexico, and the royal edicts were transmitted through the viceroy in Acapulco. Soon we shall be independent. After ten years of the Commonwealth, the Philippine Republic will be established. That does not mean the end of our relationship. These two nations will be linked together by a closer and more enduring friendship: When the American flag is hauled

down from the Philippines to give way to the Filipino flag, that same instant the Stars and Stripes will be more truly enshrined in the Filipino Heart.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Status of the Commonwealth and National Defense, February 20, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**STATUS OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND NATIONAL
DEFENSE**

[Delivered at a Luncheon Given in His Honor by the New York City
Mayor's Committee on Welcome, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel,
New York, February 20, 1937.]

Mr. Mayor, Professor Finley, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I need not say that I feel highly honored by this luncheon, nor is it necessary for me to express my gratitude to Mayor La Guardia for the kind words he has spoken.

Mayor La Guardia's reference to the days of the Revolution when I was a soldier in the Philippine Army, brings to my mind now one of the most thrilling moments of my life. I was captured in the mountains of Mariveles in 1899, and made a prisoner of war. The mountains of Mariveles face the Island of Corregidor, where there is now a great United States army post. Soon after I was elected to the Presidency of the Commonwealth, I again visited that post accompanied by the American Commanding General of the Philippine Department. As our boat approached the landing place, the roar of nineteen guns in salute to the President of the Philippines was heard, and as I landed, soldiers of the United States Army were there presenting arms to me—to me, the man who only a few years ago was a prisoner of that army! I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, I was thrilled. I was thrilled to witness the greatness and generosity of America, as represented in that act. Her own soldiers, her own army, the army against which I fought only yesterday, was there to do me honor.

Where and under what sky can we find a more generous act?

And so it has been the history of America in the Philippine Islands during all these years, a history of unselfish devotion to a duty self-imposed, of helping the Filipinos to improve their economic conditions, and to train them in the art of self-government, until at last, only a year and four months ago, the Government placed in the hands of the people of the Philippines the administration and government of their own affairs, retaining only for the United States the control of foreign affairs—this until the day when complete independence shall be granted.

The Government we have now in the Philippines has a Constitution of its own, framed and adopted by the Filipinos, approved by the President of the United States, and then, in a plebiscite, approved also by the electorate of the Philippines. This Constitution is mainly patterned after the Constitution of the United States, but with some very important differences. I wouldn't care to say that our Constitution is an improvement upon your Constitution, but I do not want to say that such changes as we have introduced in our Constitution were introduced after thirty-five years of close study and observation of the workings of the Constitution of the United States.

One of these changes, for instance, is that our President is elected for six years instead of four, but he may not accept a second election. *[Applause]* The purpose of this amendment is to place the President in the position where he may feel primarily, if not only and exclusively, that he is the head of the nation, disconnected entirely from any political party or political considerations in the administration of the affairs of the country. *[Applause]*

The President, therefore, does not feel that he has to take into consideration either the dictates of his party, the attacks of the opposition, or the passing whims of the people.

He is permitted to sit in his office and, oblivious of the noise that is going on around him, study every question that is presented for his consideration and action with the single view of doing what in his opinion is best for the country at large. *[Applause]*

Another significant change in our constitution is that the Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands cannot declare unconstitutional a law passed by the National Assembly and duly signed by the President, except by two-thirds vote of the Supreme Court. *[Applause]*

Third, the executive is given great powers. Perhaps it is due to this fact that some of the jolly writers of this country have been inclined to call me a legalized dictator, forgetting, evidently, that those are contradictory terms. A man cannot be a dictator under the Constitution if he exercises powers that are given him by the Constitution.

The President of the Philippines has great executive powers granted to him by the Constitution. He can veto specific items in appropriation bills, so that the “pork barrel” system, about which we hear so much, cannot get by the pen of the President. He can veto such things, and when he does veto any specific items, the Legislature has to override his veto by two-thirds vote. If and when the legislature appropriates more money than the President has recommended in his budget three-fourths of the vote of the National Assembly is required in order that such a provision may stand.

You can see, then, that our Constitution has profited from the experience of other countries.

There is one clause in the Constitution which may shock the great lovers of individual liberty and the advocates of peace at any price. That clause provides that the Government of the Commonwealth may require compulsory service from every citizen of the Philippines, whether in time of peace or in time of war. Under this clause the Philippine National Assembly has enacted a law making military training compulsory for every male citizen of the Philippines over eighteen years of age. *[Applause]*

Very recently I have noticed that this Law has been denounced in the United States as something which was had at the instigation of the War Department in Washington, for the purpose of getting the United States ready to attack Japan. There are things that are so absurd on their face that it is almost an insult to pay any attention to them, but I shall take the liberty of imposing upon your patience and say a few words on this because, in the first place, it is ridiculous to say that after America has been in the Philippines for thirty-five years when she did not think of using the Philippine people to invade Japan, now that she has established a self-governing Commonwealth and is committed to the granting of independence ten years hence, she is going to organize this army of Filipinos there.

Now, again, this would perhaps be a reasonable idea, if America were lacking in man power, but will a country like this, which was able to send to Europe three, four or five million men during the World War, need the four hundred thousand Filipinos that we can train within ten years to use arms? And are we, with our 450,000 Filipinos, going to be able to conquer Japan? That is ridiculous on its face.

If you had the idea of conquering Japan, it would be easier to load your transports with your own soldiers American soldiers, than first to go to the Philippines and pick up these Filipinos and take them over, which is ridiculous.

We are giving the Filipino youth military training for several purposes. One is whether the Philippines can defend themselves or not against foreign invasion it is the duty of every citizen to defend his country whether his country can win the struggle or not. Under our National Defense plan we do not assume that the Philippines can resist any and all attacks from the great powers, but we assume that we can put up sufficient resistance in the Philippines so that any nation that may want to attack the Philippines will think it over twice, bearing in mind the cost in life and money if it attacks a country that is prepared to defend itself.

But there is another reason for this. I want to say that if I were assured by God himself this moment that the Philippines will never be imperilled by any other country, I would still be in favor of giving the Filipinos military training.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this talk of militarism has become very popular, but let me tell you this: Military training makes the man who receives that training a better citizen in time of peace. He learns discipline. He learns to recognize constituted authority. He learns to consider duty above personal convenience, and that is what I am trying to do. *[Applause]* That is what I am trying to do in the Philippines. I want every Filipino to know that he can only call himself a worthy citizen of a worthy country if he learns his duties before he demands his rights. *[Applause]*

Further, this National Defense plan of the Philippines includes training in vocational professions, so that the young man, after his training will be a better farmer, or he will be a better engineer, or whatever his vocation may be. So, please don't pay much attention when you hear that we are militarizing the Philippines and that we are militarizing it for the purpose of attacking Japan with the Philippine Army, or for the purpose of giving President Quezon, the legalized dictator, the opportunity to whip the rest of the country with his soldiers.

As a matter of fact, the regular army of the Philippines will contain only ten thousand men,—ten thousand! Who is the dictator who can use ten thousand men to whip sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen million people, which is the population of the Philippines today, the majority of whom know how to use a rifle? Why, this talk is not worth any further discussion and, therefore, I am going to pass to another subject.

I am proud to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, that, in spite of the fact that one of the fears of those who doubted the preparation of the Filipinos for self-government was that we would be bankrupt, as soon as the power of disposing of our finances was left in Filipino hands, I am proud to say that the Philippine Treasury never had a greater surplus than it has today. *[Applause]* I have 50,000,000 pesos unencumbered surplus in the Philippine Treasury; in other words, I have 50,000,000 pesos more over all our expenses at the end of the first year of the Government of the Commonwealth. *[Applause]* This is in spite of the fact that we have introduced public improvements that were of immediate benefit to the country. We have increased the number of our roads, the number of our hospitals, the number of our schools, and this increase in our surplus was not due to the fact that we have been going after the taxpayer in the form of increasing taxes. We have been going after the taxpayer who heretofore did not pay his taxes; in other words, we made the collection of taxes effective. By doing that, we did not have to overburden the taxpayer.

So we have in the Philippines a government where the land tax in the provinces is only 7/8 of 1 per cent and in the City of Manila, 1/2 per cent, as against 2.79 of Mayor La Guardia in the City of New York. *[Laughter and applause]*

Proceeding—I know that I am off the air now but I suppose I may further take advantage of your indulgence. *[Applause]* Our income taxes, for instance, are the lowest in any country in the world. Our highest tax, income tax on 3,000,000 pesos or over, is 30 per cent. If one has an income of \$200,000,000 in the Philippine Island, he won't pay more than 30 per cent. That is, therefore, the place for all the Wall Street folks. *[Laughter]* extend to them a very cordial invitation this noon. They can go there and pile up their money. I do not promise, however that ten years from now we may not be trying to do to them what is being done to them in this country

Just at this time we think that we should not scare people who have some money to invest, because we assume that the man who has some money to invest wants to make some profit for himself from the money that he is investing and, therefore, we are leaving him plenty; and we don't forget the workingman, either. We are trying to expropriate all the large landed estates for the purpose of selling them back on very easy terms to the man who works the land.

You know, ladies and gentlemen, that I am one of those who believe that no man has the right to own more land than he can work. Of course, I am not going to apply that literally for, if I did, I suppose many of the Filipinos would be running away from the Philippines; but there is a happy medium. In this happy medium the purpose of the Government should be to have as many people owning their land as possible. No better weapon can be placed in the hands of a country against Communism than the ownership of land in the hands of the small man in the district. *[Applause]*

And what of the future? Eight years and four months hereafter, under the terms of the Independence Act the Philippines should be independent. There are two provisions in this Independence Act which are worthy of notice. One of them provides that not later than two years prior to the establishment of the Philippine Republic, the President of the United States shall call a Congress of the representatives of the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the United States, for the purpose of discussing the future trade relations between the two countries and, if a common ground is found, to make that the policy of this Government after the independence of the Philippines has been granted.

I take it that the reason why the Independence Act contains this clause is that the Congress of the United States is aware of the opportunities that there are in the Philippines for American trading. Today the Philippines is the seventh best customer of the United States, and as she grows in population and in wealth, this trade will proportionately grow, provided the conditions under which the trade is carried out are as favorable as they are today.

The Philippines, ladies and gentlemen, is a growing country and a rapidly growing one. In 1922, I think, or in 1920, the last census of the Philippines was taken, and we had about ten million people. We now have from sixteen to eighteen million people. Recently we have discovered that almost every island of the archipelago has rich gold mines, and the Government of the Commonwealth is doing everything in its power to promote the development of these gold mines.

There are some people who believe that we even have oil—but we have iron, we have coal, and we have almost everything that is required in war, and those are very expensive and necessary things in these days, for in spite of our hopes that there may never be war, because the World War was fought to end war, in these days everybody is fearful that there may be another war. The Philippines, therefore, is a territory that is potentially a very rich country, and a potentially very rich country is a fine market for anybody who has something to sell.

Of course, that is not going to be a one-sided proposition. On our part we will be demanding as much as you will want from us, which will mean that there could be some reciprocal trade agreements between your country and the Philippines.

Another clause of the Independence Act authorizes the President of the United States, after independence shall have been granted, to negotiate with the Government of the Philippine Republic for the establishment of naval reservations in the Philippines for the United States. I care to say nothing about that. That is something that will have to be discussed between this Government and the Government of the Philippine Republic once the Philippines is independent, and by that time, if it will take eight more years, I am afraid I shall be dead, so I prefer to say nothing more about it.

I do want, however, before I close, to call your attention to the fact that while our political affiliations are getting looser and looser, our trade relations and other kinds of relation are getting tighter.

Only recently you have inaugurated this Pan-American Airways that has put New York nearer to Manila than New York was to Honolulu two years ago. You can go from New York to Manila now in seven days, and perhaps in less. That means that we are getting closer to one another, that our association, culturally, commercially and otherwise, is getting closer than when you first went to the Philippines.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us hope that America and the Philippines, after they have been politically separated, may always be joined by ties of friendship and cultural and commercial relationships. [*The audience arose and applauded*]

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Spanish-American War and National Defense, February 27, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

[Delivered at the Banquet of the Military Order of the Carabao,
at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C, February 27, 1937.]

Gentlemen, honored guests (I was going to say but I will say) Carabaos: Tonight I am back in the old days of my youth [*applause*]; the reminiscences of the past come pouring into my mind and I can hardly express my feelings. I remember the days when my great ambition was to kill an American soldier, and my constant fear was to be killed by an American soldier. It is very hard for me to say now which of the two emotions was the stronger. I only remember that the second emotion kept me running through the mountains, and in thus running I had very little opportunity of satisfying the first one.

I have accepted the investigation to address you not only because I deemed it a great honor to be your guest on an occasion such as this, but also because I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to know you and for you to know me.

Now, gentlemen, I am addressing soldiers, as I understand, and I suppose you will appreciate a talk from a soldier. I am not going to camouflage tonight. I know that many of those who took part in the war—it was not war, it was just a little game—have felt that I was the worst enemy of the Americans. Many of them have spoken of me in language that is hardly proper to print, but to my satisfaction I can say that those who have thus spoken of me were men who had not the occasion to meet me, or if they had, they had only a glimpse of me. It is my pride and my satisfaction that among the best friends I have in this world I count men who have fought me during the war and who were members, some of them today high officers and generals, of the United States.

So I am just vain enough to believe that those who have not met me before will be my friends after they hear me. But let me tell you, gentlemen, that what I am going to say is true, and because I believe that you do not know that it is true I am prepared to educate you on a subject which you ought to know better than anyone, and I dare say you are the ones who least know about it. You know that the greatest war ever fought by the United States Army was the war in the Philippines—the Spanish-American War, and perhaps it is the one war which hardly will find a page and space in the history of the United States Army because there were no glorious fights, for as I said before that was no war. You met, in the war against Spain, an army who had old, hardly useful, weapons; and when you met the poor Philippine Army, the Filipinos—what did they have? They only had one thing,—the courage to face you and to die a few minutes after they had faced you.

Of such a war as that, nothing can be said, and yet if you could see the effects of that war in terms of human liberty that was the greatest war ever fought in any corner of the earth.

I do not wish to belittle what has been done by the United States Army in the World War. That was a war which covered with glory the American soldier; it was a war which gave this country an opportunity to show her determination, a war that gave you men a chance to prove that American patriotism is equal, if not superior, to that of any citizen of any country. But gentlemen, you fought that war to end war. Can you tell me how much of that objective has been accomplished? How much? Of the noble ideas then proclaimed as the objective of that war, a war

for democracy, for people to govern themselves, a war that was to free humanity from the awful effect of another war—how much of that has been accomplished?

Well, I am not going to answer that question because every one of you can answer it. I can only say, as you all know, that there is greater fear today that we may face a worse war, and as for democracy there is hardly any country now where democracy exists. That war brought dictatorships, exercised either by individuals or groups. It almost destroyed the basis of civilization which we know and which had taken thousands and thousands of years to reach the point which existed prior to 1914. That is one picture of a war which cost you so much in lives and in treasure.

Now, look at the other picture, the picture of the Spanish-American War. You had much less to arouse the American people with to fight that war. It could, I take it, be placed in one basket. There were not so many promises made; you simply said that you fought that war, not for your own aggrandizement, not because of the desire on your part to add to your territory, not because you wanted to conquer subject peoples—you said you fought that war in the interest of human freedom and liberty. And now those of you who took part in that war and who are still alive, those who are now gone but who from Heaven can see what is going on on this earth, and all of you know that that was what you said was the objective and the result of that war has demonstrated it to be the objective.

You fought to free Cuba, to free the Filipinos, to save the world. The Declaration of Independence gave birth to this nation. I know that many of those who fought in that war, after finding out that America was really going to give up the Philippines, felt that they had fought in vain, that they had wasted their youth going through the jungles of the Philippine Islands as you have seen in that picture tonight. Some contracted malaria. Some did not realize that there are things in life that are of more immense value than any earthly possessions.

Rome conquered almost the whole world, but Rome did not keep the countries which it had conquered. Rome, in fact, disappeared herself. What survived? The institutions of Rome. We are still under the influence of Roman culture and civilization—the moral values. They still remain in the hearts of men. Those are what will remain of what you have done in the Philippines. Twenty, thirty, forty or a hundred centuries from now the Americans will be remembered in the Philippines not as her conquerors, but for their work in the culture, the ideals, and the well-being of the people.

Here is what I am going to tell you—what a few of you know: you know the soldier; his duty is to obey commands—to do what he has been told to do and taught to do. The credit is taken not by him for what he has accomplished, but by those who have given the instructions or the orders to him to do what he had done, and consequently when you read articles or books written about Americans in the Philippines very little is said about what the soldier did.

I am going to tell you what the American soldier did in the Philippines. I already told you the American soldier made my life miserable, but that is beside the point, although as a matter of fact he made me spend nights without sleep and made me hide in the forest days and nights without food. That is no joke; it is true. After that war he kept me in jail for six months, and after six months in jail I went to another jail, a hospital, for two years. But let us lay that aside.

This is what the American soldier did. While he was shooting Filipinos with his right hand, with the left hand he was teaching the boys the English language and giving them primary instruction. What army has ever done that? While he was complying with his duty to establish law and order, he was at the same time teaching the citizens of tomorrow—What? He was teaching them what would make them good citizens, taking away from himself the fruit of his victory if the fruit of his victory was conquest, for while he was teaching the children he must have known that intelligent educated men would not long remain a conquered people. That is what the American soldier did in the Philippines.

The system of education in the Philippine Islands is what was established during General MacArthur's time [*applause*]; not this MacArthur here—his father.

You will be surprised, but while the army was still in full command, while still fighting, there were issued orders giving the Filipinos the right of *habeas corpus*, a right which the Filipinos never had in three centuries of Spanish rule. So there, it was the United States Army in the Philippines that gave the Filipinos the right of *habeas corpus*, a right which we later on used to protect the rights of Filipinos against acts of the military authorities.

The code of criminal procedure in the Philippines today is much more liberal and advanced than what we ever had under the Spanish inquisition. One of the best institutions that we have in the Philippines is the Constabulary established by army officers, like General Rivers, General Bandholtz, and General Harbord.

I will tell you more. After I was freed from my prison, my jailers, and my malaria, the whole thing left not a very good taste in my mouth, as you may well understand and I had in my heart a real hatred for Americans I did not want to learn English; when some one asked me if I spoke English I said "No!" and that I did not want to learn it. Up to that time I had not met any of the United States Army officer or soldiers. I then met General Bandholtz in charge of the Constabulary which was in Tayabas, and I began to change my opinion of army officers. He was a perfect gentleman, very considerate, and he insisted that I learn English, and he became my first teacher. That was the beginning of my present sentiments towards Americans and America, my having met General Bandholtz.

Later on, General Harbord took the place of General Bandholtz, but by the time I had become very popular with the American soldiers. And I was a candidate for Governor of Tayabas, and I am going to say what I am going to say because I am no longer in the army, or I might get court-martialed. As I said, I was candidate for Governor and I will tell you what the army officers did. At that time we got our electors through means of communication, and the officer in charge of Quartermaster gave me all the help that the army could for me to get electors—that is a fact. So even when I entered politics, the army officers helped me win, and I did win.

Upon inauguration of the Commonwealth, we found ourselves confronted with a new responsibility. Under the Independence Act passed by Congress, it was provided that after a certain definite period of time the Filipinos would be independent, which meant that the Filipinos had to take care of themselves and defend their own country. When I faced this new responsibility, I immediately turned to an army officer of the United States Army to seek his advice and help us to organize our national defense.

That army officer is General Douglas MacArthur [*long applause*], then Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

And, gentlemen, we have frankly adopted a system of compulsory universal military training in the Philippines. I have read criticisms launched against this policy adopted by the Philippine Government, and I have read it printed that this was a conspiracy on the part of the War Department to increase the American Army with 400,000 Filipinos in order to attack Japan, and incidentally in order that Manuel Quezon may have at his disposal an army to perpetuate his dictatorship in the Philippines.

So, there you are. We are organizing a national defense in the Philippine Islands to attack Japan, to permit the American Army to attack Japan, and to give Manuel Quezon a force to proclaim himself dictator of his people and remain a power forever.

The only trouble about this statement is that the plan of national defense as contemplated in our program will not materialize until America has left the Philippines; therefore, I don't see how the United States Army can use the Filipino to attack Japan. You will not be there when we finish; when we have 400,000 the American flag will have been withdrawn from the Philippines. The other difficulty is that I will be out of office because my term of office is six years, and under the Constitution I cannot seek reelection. The Constitution of the Philippines cannot be amended without the approval of the President, and under the Constitution if anybody uses armed forces, America has the power to intervene, so therefore it would be very hard for me to perpetuate myself in my dictatorship.

We are not organizing a big regular army; we are organizing a very small army only, an army of 10,000 men, that is all. But we are organizing an army of all the citizens of the Philippines. In other words, we are teaching every boy who reaches the age of 20 the efficient and intelligent use of modern weapons, and, gentlemen, we should. We have had a tremendous lesson in the past that we have taken advantage of.

When America entered the Philippine Islands, the Filipinos attempted to resist America, and what did we do? We proved to you that we knew how to die, and we also proved to you that we did not know how to fight, or how to defend ourselves. After America has left the Philippines, no other country will come to the Islands only to kill the Filipinos. They are taking the risk of being also killed by the Filipinos. We know how to die for we know it is the duty of every citizen to die in defense of his country, but, gentlemen, the country whose citizens are all dead is no country, and therefore it is our firm determination now to teach the Filipinos to know how to fight and not only fight but die.

But there is something more to this national defense system we are establishing in the Philippines. We are teaching the virtues of citizenship to every Filipino from the age of 10 in the school. We tell him he has a country to which he owes everything he is, and we tell him of his duties because we teach him his rights. In a democracy the solidity of institutions depends upon the knowledge of every citizen of his duties and his willingness to comply with them; and that is what we are trying to do in our country—educating these youngsters to the idea that life is not all pleasure, that life means duties; and when a man has learned his duties and knows how to comply with them he will know how to demand his rights. [*Applause*]

We are doing more than that. We are teaching those young men who are in camps not only military science, but we are also giving them vocational instruction, teaching them to be better farmers, better mechanics, and preparing them for the everyday work of life. We are experimenting something in the Philippines that no other country has ever done before. We are trying to make our soldiers self-supporting. The boys we are training are made to plan vegetables, fruits, figs, and so forth in the camps. Why? Because we are not only interested in having citizens that will be competent soldiers, but also, and perhaps more so, in having soldiers that are competent citizens. [*Applause*]

That is the National Defense program that we have at hand which has been so much criticized, and for which we are being accused of militarizing this country. Now this talk of militarizing is pure bunk and all this fine work, I am glad to say again, is something more that you can add to the wonderful record of the American soldier in the Philippines, for it is being done with the advice of General Douglas MacArthur of the United States. [*Applause*]

So, I want to say to the soldiers of the days of the empire, that you ought to be the first ones to feel proud that your presence in the Philippine Islands does not mean the repetition of what every conqueror in the past has done. To do that, you did not have to be Americans; you could have been any one of half a dozen nations, the names of which I have on my lips but which I am not going to let out. [*Laughter*] To do what you have done, only America can do it, only America has done it, and only America is doing it.

Let me tell the soldiers of the days of the empire, that that is something you can be proud of, and have the right to be proud of, and if you want to talk dollars and cents I can prove to you that in dollars and cents you are not losing anything by adopting that policy. Suppose you are today in the Philippines; does that mean any one of you own the Philippines? No. If you wanted a home, you would have to buy it. Because you won the war does not mean that you can have a home for nothing. Perhaps we will let you have a little cheaper. [*Laughter*] You would have to buy it, whether your flag is there or not. And if you want to sell us neckties, whether there is an American flag or not, we have to pay for them.

There is something in our trade that is of practical benefit. We can trade after the Philippines is independent and if you want preferential trade with us we will be glad to give it to you, and we will ask for the same thing from you.

Nobody can close that chapter of America in the Philippine Islands. Nobody can do it. The day when the American flag goes down to give place to the Filipino flag, American history in the Philippines will not have been terminated; it will only be the beginning of a history more sublime; it will be the beginning of a relationship between America and the Philippines strengthened by a tie more lasting than that which is merely political—the tie of friendship and gratitude.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on the Philippine Constitution and Policies of the Commonwealth Government,
April 3, 1937**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Philippine Constitution and Policies of the Commonwealth Government**

[Delivered at a Luncheon Meeting of the Foreign Policy Association on "The Future of the Philippines" at Hotel Astor, New York City*, April 3, 1937]

Dr. Buell, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I had to make great effort to be here on this occasion, for I had an engagement last night to dine with the Chinese Minister in Washington, and to-night I have another engagement with the Japanese Ambassador for dinner. So you see I had to take a midnight train to be here, and I have to return on the 3:33.

But I have come precisely because of what Dr. Buell has said. I don't know whether my fellow dictators [*laughter*] would deign to argue with people who criticize their dictatorship, but I do know that I love to face those who criticize me, for I am sure that the only way of getting at the truth is by facing those who do not agree with you.

And so I am here because the Foreign Policy Association, of which my dear friend, Dr. Buell, is the President, has somewhat misunderstood some of the things we are doing in the Philippines, and because some other people here present have been writing articles about the Government of the Philippines not exactly in accord with the facts.

The first thing that stands out when a student reads the Philippine Constitution is that the Constitution of the Philippines gives the Chief Executive very great powers, and because of this fact some believe that these powers granted the Chief Executive are greater than the executive powers given to the President of the United States by the Constitution of America.

But apart from my diabolical plan to become in time Dictator of the Philippines, I also wish to tell you about the Constitution of the Philippines. As a matter of fact, the Constitution of the Philippines has been written at a time when experience in this country and all over the world had shown the framers of our Constitution certain fundamental weaknesses in your Constitution as well as in the parliamentary system of some of the governments of Europe.

They had seen, for instance, that for years this Government suffered from what was well known here as the pork barrel system, the log rolling, and they provided in their Constitution the only method whereby pork barrel and log rolling could not be repeated in the Philippine Islands. The pork barrel is the natural result of a system whereby the appropriation of public funds is left entirely in the hands of the legislature, where sections of the country are represented by individual members of the legislature, and naturally many of those sections exercise influence over those particular legislators, with the result that in appropriating the public funds by local consideration. Hence, the pork barrel.

So our Constitution places entirely upon the shoulders of the Chief Executive the responsibility of preparing the budget and submitting it to the legislature. The Chief Executive has been elected by the people at large, and knowing the condition of the whole country when he prepares his budget, he is not influenced by local considerations; he is bound to look after the interests of the nation as a whole.

You have already adopted that system in the State of New York whereby, by virtue of your Constitution, the responsibility for preparing your budget rests upon the shoulders of the Chief Executive.

In spite of the fact that your President submits his budget to Congress, the Congress may do as it pleases with that budget. Not with our Government, for the legislature, under our Constitution, cannot increase the budget as submitted by the Chief Executive; it can only reduce it.

Moreover, under our system the Chief Executive can veto items in an appropriation. The result of this is that if some members of the legislature, or a number of them, should get together and insert in the appropriation bill an item attempting to favor a given locality, the President may veto that item without the necessity of vetoing the whole appropriation.

This is a tremendous power indeed, but it is a power which the framers of our Constitution have given to the Chief Executive in the Philippine Islands in view of the fact that we have seen already the tremendous amount of money that has been wasted when the legislature has the unrestricted power of appropriating public funds under the influence of local interests.

Again, the framers of our Constitution have seen how some dictators have risen in Europe because of the utter failure of parliament to give the people an efficient government. The framers of our Constitution felt that in order that it may not be necessary for someone to rise above the masses and with force grasp the reins of government, as what has happened in Europe, the Constitution preferred to place in hands of the Chief Executive the powers necessary to always maintain an efficient government, so that a condition may not arise whereby chaos and disorder shall reign, with the resultant effect upon the people of being disappointed at their own government and believing that democracy is a failure.

In other words, we have, in adopting and establishing in the Philippines a democracy, learned enough from other countries to know that democracy has in itself the necessary virtues to provide the people with efficient government, if the machinery that is placed in the hands of democracy is an efficient machinery.

Under our Constitution it is provided that one of the main duties of the State is to look after the interests of the largest number. In order that the Government may accomplish this purpose, it is given specific powers to own and operate public utilities, and even to go into private business if necessary, should there be a case where private corporations in disregard of the public welfare are thinking only of their gain, of their profit, without bearing in mind the needs of the country.

So we have a Constitution that is filled with these new ideas of social justice. The philosophy of *laissez faire* in our Government is dead. It has been substituted by the philosophy of government intervention whenever the needs of the country require it.

Another thing we have learned is the need of requiring a two-thirds vote of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional. This is in order that one may not be sufficient to set aside the combined judgment of the Assembly and the Chief Executive.

I am going to speak now on one of the policies of the Government of the Philippines which has received more criticism than any other things we have ever done,—the question of the nation's defense. The Filipinos are being charged with wanting to have their cake and eat it, too. Only two days ago a distinguished member of the House of Representatives delivered a speech on the floor of the House and said, "The Filipinos want independence, but they want to have the advantage of the American market for their products and the protection of the American forces."

Now, ladies and gentlemen, this charge is unfounded. It is true that the Filipinos assert that, even if the United States were to cut entirely all kinds of connections with the Philippines within ten years or less, this country is morally bound to give the Filipinos a chance to re-adjust their national economy to the change that will come when independence shall have been granted, and no trade relations on a special preferential basis should exist between Philippines and the United States, but the Filipinos feel this way, because the present trade relations between the United States and the Philippines have been imposed upon them by an Act of Congress. The Filipinos saw at that time that to establish these free trade relations between America and the Philippines would create industries in the

Philippines that would depend upon the protected American market, and when the time came for the separation of these two countries, those industries would be destroyed.

America, in spite of that protest, established those free trade relations, so that industries have been created in the Philippines under the protection of this protected market, and during the War, when America needed sugar and oil and copra, the Government of the Philippines at the instruction of the War Department, made the Filipinos plant more sugar cane, bring more copra here, so that you could have what you needed during that war.

The Filipinos, grateful as they were to the United States for the benefits that we have received from you, loyal that they were to the American Flag, so loyal that I personally came to this country to offer to President Wilson a division of Filipinos to fight for your Flag and die with your soldiers in the fields of Europe—the Filipinos gave you the sugar and the copra, that you needed then, and now the Filipinos are blamed, accused of wanting to have their cake and eat it, too, because they think that in justice to them you should give them a chance to liquidate their sugar interests which have been created under the auspices of your protected market and practically under the compulsion of your Government when you needed that sugar and that copra.

It is not true that we want to have our cake and eat it, too. When, speaking for my people, I say we are willing to accept independence, I mean we are willing to accept all the responsibilities of independence. If I didn't believe that the Filipinos were willing to accept the responsibilities of independence, I would be ashamed to call myself a Filipino. That is why the first thing that we did was to prepare ourselves for national defense. One of the eternal assertions in this and every other country is that if the Filipinos were allowed to live by themselves, they shall be grabbed by a greedy power. Well, in the days that we live in, when neutralization treaties are laughed, the only answer that the Filipinos can give to that statement is to prepare their country to defend itself.

International treaties are good. I don't object to them, but international treaties of neutralization that we have seen are not worth the paper on which they are written, and we cannot, with that experience, depend exclusively upon international treaties, and so we are organizing our national defense, and we are being charged by that—I am accused of trying to build up an army that will perpetuate me in power.

The maximum of the regular army that we are contemplating is 10,000 men. Ten thousand men, in a country of eighteen million that the Philippine people are, cannot subjugate those eighteen million; much less can they subjugate if you realize the fact that our national program consists in giving military training to all our youth so that every man will know how to use his rifle should the time come when he has got to defend his country.

We have adopted in the Philippines the system that has been going on in Switzerland for many years. Is there anybody here who would say that the military training of the youth in Switzerland means dictatorship in Switzerland? Is there anyone here who will dare say that there is any country more democratic than Switzerland?

We are training our youth so that if and when the Philippines should become independent, any notion that would come and attempt to grab the Islands, would at least think twice before carrying out its plans, because of the cost in lives and money in attempting to conquer the Philippines, once the country is prepared to defend itself.

But we are doing that for more reasons than one. This military training serves to unify the Filipinos into really one people. It brings young men from every place of the country together to meet with one another and realize their oneness, realize that they belong to one country for the defense of which they are trained.

It does more than that. Our military establishment for the training of our youth takes care that they are also taught the civic virtues of a citizen. The whole philosophy of the national defense program of the Philippines is to make of a Filipino soldier a better older, when he has to fight, and a better citizen in time of peace. [*Applause*]

* * * * *

(Following the above speech other members of the F.P.A. spoke, after which President Quezon again spoke. The intervening address follow.)

TOASTMASTER BUELL: We are now going to have a little symposium on this question, and the first participant is a distinguished and unique personality who has spent his life in the American Army, who has served many years in the Philippines where he became head of the Philippine Constabulary, and to close his active military career as Inspector General of the United States Army. Our speaker led a regiment in the great battle of Chateau Thierry, but I think he is what the botanists call a sport, in that in my opinion he is probably more of a pacifist than Mr. Villard.

At any rate, I take great pleasure in calling upon Major General William C. Rivers. [*Applause*]

GENERAL RIVERS: Your Excellency, President Quezon, Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

For me it is a very great and genuine pleasure to see Manuel Quezon here as the President of the Philippine Commonwealth.

I gave the best ten years of my working life to the service of the Filipino people. When I settled my family in Mr. Quezon's town some sixty miles South of Manila, Mr. Quezon was a young lawyer. Mrs. Quezon, now the able and charming First Lady in the Philippines, was then a young school girl, Aurora Aragon.

My duty required our residence in several provincial towns, and I had to work in all parts of the Islands. My wife and I soon grew to like the Filipinos. They are a hardworking people with ability, ambition, and much racial pride. With peace in the Orient, the Filipinos will govern themselves well.

I want to say a few words about the Far Eastern policy of the United States, the military problem from an American standpoint; also, about the alleged Japanese menace to the Philippines. But I warn you not to look for very much from me. You know the five volumes just written by the brilliant Lloyd George, mainly to show how extremely stupid all old Generals are! [*Laughter*] Now, I am an old General, for I saw as a cadet-boy at West Point the great Civil War triumvirate, Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan. Lloyd George may be right, but why did he omit the old Admirals [*Laughter*] and the diplomats and officers of the State and Foreign Departments of the various countries?

Old Generals may study the last war, but the diplomats study the *status quo* and the *status quo ante*, and talk of uni-lateral and bi-lateral conversations between nations. I say, let us have both kinds of talks; let everyone talk at the same time if it will make for peace in the Pacific.

America has no clear policy as to the Far East. Such as we have might be expressed somewhat as follows: "We took the Philippines to protect our trade with China; now many seem to think we must fight Japan to protect China so as to guard the Philippines," going around and around the circle. This is what might be called a circular policy as to the Far East.

I think the republic of the Philippines can be and should be neutralized. It is to the selfish and national interests of several great powers to have the Philippines neutral. The United States should withdraw from the Philippines and from the Orient. We have no territory in Asia proper and no political interests at all in Asia. We are not going to interfere in Asiatic affairs. The future of Eastern Asia will inevitably be settled by the people who live there, by the Japanese, Chinese, and Russians.

The Filipinos alone, nor the United States alone, nor the Filipinos combined in an alliance, cannot defend the Philippines against a nearby military power which is squarely between the United States and the Philippines. No two far-off great Western nations combined, England and America, for example, can permanently dominate the Philippines region.

To speak of an American naval base at Manila is very far-fetched. All the Congress could build at Manila would be a far-off, exposed and untenable salient. The defense of such a salient would require the United States to build a new

fleet as large as the Japanese fleet. Heavy, land-based airplanes could bomb such a salient, and Manila itself, from Formosa, very near to the Philippines, and from several other places. Remember that land-based airplanes are very much heavier and more powerful than airplanes that any ships carry.

Holding the Philippines will involve for the United States two dangers: A war at some time with Japan and the responsibility to put down a revolt some day of the Filipinos against the local Filipino Government at Manila.

Vast changes have taken place in the Northwest Pacific regions. Some of these are: The rise of Japan as a first-class power, the return of Russia to that region far more formidable than Czarist Russia ever was, and the doubling in the last four years of range, speed and capacity of the air bombers, with the development of the new submarines.

Russia now has in Eastern Asia more soldiers than Japan has in its peace army, lines of new concrete forts in Siberia, many airplanes, and many railway-shipped submarines. Russia threatens Japan at the North from Vladivostok, and Russia pushes from the West into Outer Mongolia toward the sea. Unless Japan holds Manchuria as a buffer and also pushes Westward in North China, Russia can soon have the Islands of Japan proper in dire peril. A strong foothold on the mainland of China is vital to the continuance of Japan as a first-class power.

I favor our recognition of Manchukuo and our recognition of Japan's strategic movements in North China. I favor efforts on our part to secure the interest of Japan in the independence and success of the Philippine Republic. I am in favor of a world system for peace, as most people are, but it is event that such a system is not at present practicable.

I hope that our people will grant generous trade privileges to the Filipinos for a number of years. I would like to see our people generously agree to pay off the some \$70,000,000 Philippine bonded debt, for money the American administrations at Manila borrowed.

I trust our "Good Neighbor" policy is not for the peoples to the South of us alone. I hope the ladies who flew to Buenos Aires will soon take at San Francisco the Hawaii Clipper to Honolulu and there meet people who come from Eastern Asia to meet the ladies—meet Chinese, Japanese and Russians who will live in Eastern Asia to talk of peace. I hope they will carry the Dove of Peace also into the Pacific.

We are now assembling in the North Pacific Ocean the greatest, and certainly the most costly, fleet of war vessels and fighting planes the world has ever seen in one place. I have been in a lot of overseas wars, and I am sure the only way to stop overseas wars is to take it in hand before the coming of the crisis. The crisis will come in the Pacific in two or three years, when the Japanese and ourselves have completed and ready for the battle lines the additional fighting ships both countries are now constructing.

We can well defend our West coast with a more moderate fleet based on the ice-free harbors of the Aleutian Islands, and can defend our normal line in the Pacific from the Aleutians to the Hawaiians and on down to Panama, a line that is more than two thousand miles from our own Western shores. I thank you very much. *[Applause]*

TOASTMASTER BUELL: Our second participant in this symposium has fought valiantly in many popular battles. He is one of the few surviving members of the Anti-Imperialistic League, organized in 1898 to prevent the annexation of the Philippines, and he is going to live long enough to see that victory won.

I have great pleasure in introducing to you Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard. *[Applause]*

Mr. VILLARD: Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a little bit hard to realize as one gets older that one is sometimes called upon, as today, solely because of one's longevity. *[Laughter]*

But I must confess that I am a survivor of that army of many thousands of Americans called Anti-Imperialists who bitterly opposed the American conquest of the Islands from the day that the first shot was fired, and were determined from beginning to end that eventually the Islands should be set free.

Our leaders were men like Grover Cleveland, then ex-President; Carl Schurz, statesman and Corps Commander at Gettysburg; President Eliot, of Harvard; Charles Eliot Norton, of Harvard; Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, and many other patriots who, in the face of contumely, abuse, vilification and aspersions upon their patriotism, never ceased to battle for justice and freedom for the Filipinos.

There were three newspaper staffs at that time that went so far in their opposition to the governmental policies, those of the New York Evening Post, the Boston Herald, and Springfield Republican, that the McKinley Cabinet devoted one morning to a discussion as to whether they should not be prosecuted for treason. I know of only two other survivors of those staffs besides myself.

Now, these Anti-Imperialists had a double motive. They believed that this country could not conquer an aspiring people anywhere and then deny it freedom without gravely injuring the very soul of America itself, without irretrievably staining and dishonoring our own nation. They fought for their country as well as for yours, President Quezon, I recall this to you because, with all due deference to the effectiveness of your presentation of your case, I shall address a few words of appeal to you in protest against certain tendencies we have noted in the policies of your government, out of this background of mine, because of the great anxiety that some of us feel when we regard your country's future.

Here again there is a double motive. The tables are turned. We seek not to interfere in the domestic concerns of your people nor to give them patronizing advice, but we believe we are vitally concerned in the future national policies of your government, because if after our long training and tutelage the Philippines now leave the paths of democracy, if legislative developments in Manila open the way to a dictatorship, military or civil, the Filipinos will by those acts have struck grave blows at our own American institutions, and at the safety of our own democracy in a crumbling world.

We who fought for your freedom at no little risk to ourselves believed that if you became a free nation you would ever hold aloft the torch of democracy, that you would show to a doubting world that even in Asiatic climes men of totally different racial ancestry and traditions could still prove that a democracy can be made to work. We want today your aid and cooperation not only to prove this beyond cavil, but to aid us in our own defense and maintenance of government by and for the people. Democracies everywhere have their backs to the wall.

It is true that times and the world have changed. Yet I cannot think of anything that could have given greater pain to men like Schurz and Cleveland and Hoar and Storey, than to have lived to read of the introduction of universal military service in the Philippines, extending down into the very schools and including boys ten years of age—here is the schedule—the exact age specified by Mussolini and Hitler for the beginning of their training of their cannon-fodder.

The Anti-Imperialists who opposed the use of American troops to conquer the Philippines would certainly refuse to believe that an American General is heading this conscription, with the rank of Field Marshal, if you please, the first American to bear that title, a title to which Washington, Grant, Lee, Sherman and Pershing never aspired. We read with dismay that this officer is to command a standing army of not what you said, 10,000—your Act reads 20,500, in addition to your constabulary of 9,000 men; that a reserve of 40,000 men is to be created right away, and that by 1946 it is planned to have 1,250,000 men who will have had some military training, under arms, and that this whole military scheme is to be coordinated with a system of adult education. And what ominous words as this is described: “To instill the virtues of national consciousness, patriotism and discipline in the general population.” They sound suspiciously like Rome and Berlin and Moscow. Was it really for this that the Anti-Imperialists made their shining self-sacrifice?

Some of us are emboldened to speak out against this whole policy because of our certainty that it is unavailing to bring security and safety to the Philippines. The answer lies in the neutralization of the Philippines, for which Carl Schurz appealed as far back as January 4, 1899, in a great address at the University of Chicago. “This,” he said, “would secure them against foreign aggression.”

Here I associate myself entirely with what General Rivers has said out of the background of his long experience. I hope, ladies and gentlemen, you realize the historic significance of this occasion. Something is happening here that perhaps never happened before: A pacifist and a Major General, devoted friends, sitting side by side and unanimous on all questions of Philippine policy. [*Laughter*]

I am well aware that men ask how it is possible to expect loyalty, as the President has suggested it, in a time when treaties are no longer sacred. My answer is that Japan has everything to gain from a neutralization of the Philippines and nothing whatever to lose.

And all of this is to be done at a perfectly tremendous cost, and that is only the beginning. Surely, President Quezon, the role of a new and struggling country would seem to be to conserve every single dollar of its resources for its inner needs until it knows that it has found the path to prosperity and economic safety and can set not trembling but steady feet upon that path. But more than that, the modern state calls for a social and economic security and well being for its workers, down to the very humblest. It hurts to hear that you are able to spend \$8,000,000 for military training, and that you have not money enough for universal public education to open the children's minds to the intellectual wealth and riches of the world. [*Applause*]

Great resources the Philippines have beyond question, greater perhaps than many of us fully understand. Surely the future holds no greater duty for a government such as yours than to husband those resources and to use them for the benefit and advancement of all its people, for a high standard of physical and economic well being, so that men shall point hereafter to the Philippines in the future and say, "What an advance! What a great State, with all the stress of its government laid not upon teaching its citizens how to kill, but how to live, how to live peacefully, well and sanely, how to give their sons more and more of the benefits of their rich earth, and how to divide those riches equitably and justly for all its people!" [*Applause*]

TOASTMASTER BUELL: Our third and concluding participant in this symposium is well known to us. He is Director of the Institute of International Education, a close student of the Philippines, whose recently published article on the subject appeared in the Yale Review. He was a member of the Philippine Educational Survey Commission in 1925, and is one of our most distinguished educators generally.

I have pleasure in introducing Dr. Stephen P. Duggan. [*Applause*]

Dr. DUGGAN: Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: When we took over the Philippines, the commerce between the United States and the Philippines didn't amount to \$50,000 a year, and under the auspices of that splendid Governor-General, Mr. Taft, the Philippines were brought under our tariff; free trade was brought between the United States and the Philippines. I don't think the protests were nearly as vocal as President Quezon thought in having that done, but he was right, that millions of American dollars went into the Philippines to develop industries which would be of benefit primarily to the United States: sugar, cordage, coconut oil and coconut products generally.

As the result of that, the Philippine industries today are devoted exclusively to producing things for the American market. They have no other outlet, or practically no other outlet.

In 1934, the United States took nearly 85 per cent of all the Philippine products, worth over \$94,000,000. In the same year, we sent 66 2/3 per cent of all the imports into the Philippines, worth over \$55,000,000. Even in the worst depression year, our commercial relations with the worst depression year, our commercial relations with the Philippines amounted to at least \$150,000,000, and the Philippines re ninth country of all the countries in the trade with the United States.

That is the condition of things today. Now, what does the Independence Act propose? It proposes that in the fifth year of the Commonwealth, which has been already introduced, 5 per cent of the monies secured under all the exports to the Philippines shall be collected into a fund by the Philippine Government, and 5 per cent additional for the next five years, so that at the end of the fifth year 25 per cent of the value of the goods sent to the United States

will be collected in this fund, and the fund is to be devoted to the payment of the foreign debt, primarily. That means the debt held by the Americans.

Now, to carry out that policy at the present time simply means the doom of the Philippines. You only have to consider the results of this policy, of our policy, to understand that all these things that Mr. Villard has been speaking about, virtually, will follow anyhow from this policy.

The reason for that is, as I said in the beginning, and as President Quezon said, that the sole market. There is no other, and more over there can't be any other. We have raised wages in the Philippines. We have introduced a standard of living in the Philippines in such a way that the cost of production of practically everything that is produced in the Philippines is higher than that of surrounding territories. Java alone can supply the whole East of Asia, the whole of Austro-Asia, with sugar cheaper than the Philippines can do it.

The result of that is, as I said, that there is no market for the Philippine products outside. Now, for this policy to be followed, therefore, it simply means unemployment for the thousands and tens of thousands of Filipinos employed in producing the goods that we have wanted in this country.

Unemployment means unrest. For the first time since we were in the Philippines, last year there was an uprising in the Philippines, that was due to the depression and to the results of the depression. But consider what might happen if this policy that we have introduced were to be followed and the depression multiplied manyfold as a result of it.

Now, as a matter of fact, Mr. Roosevelt has made a promise, in his own language: "Where imperfections and inequalities exist, I am confident that they can be corrected after proper hearing and in fairness to both people." I sincerely hope that that will be done. There are people here at this table who belong to the Economic Council established by Mr. Quezon, representatives who are going to come in contact with the representatives of the State Department to work out a compromise policy which will do justice to the Americans and to the Filipinos.

If you knew as a result of a visit to the Philippines the pride that the Filipino people have in what has been accomplished in one generation, personally, I think changing medieval despotism into a modern democracy, you would understand how deeply they feel these projected results, the results that would naturally follow from the Independence Act. They are proud of all that has been accomplished. They are proud of their roads, of their bridges, of their health service, of their scientific service, particularly of the spiritual things that have been accomplished in the Philippines through the educational policy that has been adopted by the Filipinos.

Those things, ladies and gentlemen, were done first by cooperation between Americans and Filipinos, and after that by Filipinos themselves, and it seems to me that if a policy were adopted today by us, and allowed to be carried out, which would destroy the fine results that have resulted from this cooperation in the beginning and national work by the Filipinos themselves, it would be the most unfortunate thing that we could have happen.

In the autobiography of President McKinley, his biographer says that it was the result of divine guidance that made him agree to taking over the Philippines. I haven't heard of any divine guidance in respect to taking up this commercial policy which would destroy, I think, the Philippine civilization. *[Applause]*

TOASTMASTER BUELL: In the past, the Philippines have made great progress, but independence is complicated by two questions: Can they live economically without the American market; can they live an independent life without the protection of the American Flag and Navy?

Certain differences have developed here, and the consensus has been at least two against one, and I think it is only fair that we should give President Quezon a few minutes in which to reply.

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to be very brief. I want to add to what Dr. Duggan said, that it is not only in the interests of the Philippines to have these trade relations with America; it will also be profitable to the United States. For as we sell to you, we buy from you, and the Philippines is a growing country.

The Philippines in time to come, will mean in terms of trade for the United States, if you were to get that trade, ten times as much as Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Cuba combined. For Hawaii will never have more than one million people; Puerto Rico a million and a half, and Cuba two and a half, or three million. The Philippines are today sixteen-eighteen million people, and can be and will be in forty years, fifty million. So this is not a one-sided proposition.

Now I am going to say something in answer to my beloved and respected old friend Mr. Villard. It is with some diffidence that I am going to answer him, for I quite remember those days when many years ago I used to come to the office of Mr. Villard and get encouragement and inspiration from him in my fight for Philippine freedom.

The speech to which we have listened with admiration, delivered by this very distinguished scholar, is a speech that I would have delivered twenty years ago. Twenty years ago I delivered half a dozen speeches on the floor of the House of Representatives advocating neutralization of the Philippine Islands, and answered every question propounded to me. How did the Filipinos expect to protect themselves? I said through neutralization. But I am sorry to say that I cannot make that speech again after I have seen what happened to Belgium, Abyssinia, and Manchuria. I don't want the fate of the Philippines to be either of those three.

It is true, as my friend, General Rivers, said that the Philippines can't defend themselves against the aggression of Japan. I believe that the Philippines can be conquered, of course, by a first-class power, but when a conquering nation attempts to conquer a weaker one, it is not doing it for the pleasure of conquest in the days that we live; it is doing it for profit, and therefore it is going to count cost of that conquest as against the profit. If the Philippines are ready to defend themselves and the conquest of the Philippines will mean a lot on money and lives to the conquering nation, they will not attack the Philippines.

That is the only thing that the Filipinos can do now, and even if the Filipinos could be conquered I would feel proud of being a Filipino if the Filipinos fought valiantly before they were conquered, and not just submitted themselves meekly to that conquest. If the Filipinos don't love their country well enough to fight for it, I don't want to belong to that race.

It is all right to speak of teaching our people how to live peacefully and happily. That should be our aim and it is our aim, but we are living in a world where people are thinking of killing another; then it is our duty to be ready not to be killed so easily; and that is what I am trying to do with my people. *[Applause]*

Mr. Villard says that we should spend the money we are spending in military training on compulsory education, so that every child in the Philippine Islands may have the benefit of instruction. I agree with him, but I want to say to him that if the Philippines are going to be enslaved, it is better for the Filipinos not to be educated, for a man who is not educated can stand that better than a man who has got education. *[Applause]*

I am preparing these youths to fight for their country so that the education and training that we give them will be an education which they may use for their self-respect and protection. *[Applause]*

It is not true that the Philippine Government is not getting ready to give universal education to all our youth. The first thing I did, soon after inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, was to increase our appropriation for the schools, so that today we have already established in part compulsory education. But you cannot educate the young men and young women in the streets. You have to give them buildings, and it takes time to build these buildings. We are going to do that. We are not going to abandon it. We know what we can do with our money and we are entitled to do with it what we think is best in the interests of our country.

What would be the use of developing the Philippines and developing the Filipinos, teaching them democracy, love of freedom, of peace, trying to organize themselves so the wealth of the country will be properly divided—what would be the use of doing all that if at any moment a stronger power would come, take hold of and exploit the Philippines for its benefit and not for the benefit of the Filipinos?

It is well for you have a hundred million people to be against conscription. It is well for who have such immense wealth that you can use at any time to organize a big army to fight for your country, but for a people of sixteen million, as we are, it is necessary for us to be ready—to teach every man in our country to use the rifle.

I can understand an American protest against conscription. With all due respect to you, let me tell you, I am afraid that your conception of liberty is not altogether right. A proper conception of liberty is the performance of duty to the nation. It is because you are giving too much importance to the freedom of the individual to do as he pleases as against the interests of the State that you are suffering from the evils that you are suffering from today in this country. Because of that idea of freedom, freedom to make money, as much as you want to, at the cost of your brother, America is suffering from the evils that she is suffering from now.

In our Constitution we give our people, the first duty of a citizen is to serve the State. This makes the Filipino realize that it is his duty to consider his good in connection with the good of his neighbor, and hence his freedom to do as he pleases may not go any further than to do as he pleases when what he is doing may be at the cost of his compatriot.

We are not afraid to conscript our citizens, for we consider it the duty of every citizen to be at the call of the State. When you have educated your youth with the idea that he owes himself to his country, then you can tell him when he is making too much money at the cost of the public, “Don’t do that; think of the public; give something of what you have in abundance to those who are working for you,” and he will realize what you mean, understand your language.

But when you tell him from childhood, “It is your right to make as much money as you want to; get ready to make it; you have the freedom to do as you please,” when the time comes for him to follow that doctrine and you try to curb him, you will find Supreme Courts that will tell you have no right to do it, and you will find the country that will protest against you.

Discipline, national discipline, that word that seems to hurt the ears of some people, that is what we want in the Philippine Islands—national discipline, the spirit of sacrifice of every citizen in the interests of all. [*Applause*]

* * * * *

(Discussion on Philippine question continued among members of F.P.A. with President Quezon taking part. Record of the discussion follows.)

TOASTMASTER BUELL: We have times for a few questions before we go off the air, and then for a few more until closing time. I will start with asking this question directed to General Rivers. The General stated that Japan was justified in taking Manchukuo. Does the General believe that Japan should be allowed to take the Philippines when they become independent?

GENERAL RIVERS: He alleges that I said that Japan was justified in taking Manchukuo, and would Japan be justified in taking the Philippines when they become independent? No, the Philippines are not essential to the existence of the Japanese Empire. Without Manchuria as a buffer, the Japanese Empire cannot, in all probability, continue to exist as a free state. Russia, so much more powerful, so much more populous, would crush Japan, but Manchuria is a peculiarly valuable buffer. It is a great, square block. Troops cannot enter Manchuria from Russia without crossing the river from Siberia, without crossing a river in the mountain range before they deploy on the plains; troops cannot enter Manchuria on the West without crossing the river and mountain range before they deploy; troops cannot enter Manchuria from the East, Vladivostok region, without crossing the river.

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Just one question. General, did I understand you to say that the only reason Japan may not take the Philippines is because the Philippines is not essential to Japan? Do you mean to say that if it were essential Japan may take over, or have the right to take the Philippines?

GENERAL RIVERS: No.

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Well, but that is what you said. *[Applause]*

TOASTMASTER BUELL: I have a second question directed to Dr. Duggan: Does he believe that we should make a permanent trade treaty with the Philippines similar to the one we have with Cuba, which means a preference position in the American market, or does he believe in gradually cutting off altogether?

Dr. DUGGAN: It would be very difficult to say what would be the best policy that should be adopted. All I contend for is this one thing, that having developed the peculiar relationship that exists between the Philippines and the United States today, resulting in Filipino dependence upon our market, whatever policy we are going to adopt ought to take into consideration a long-range policy.

The sugar interests in this country are primarily the cause of the Independence Act. Now, no long-range policy was adopted by our sugar interests, namely, the best sugar interests. Hawaii and the Philippines and Cuba provided all the sugar that was necessary for this country. When the best sugar policy among our farmers was put into operation, there was no need of it.

Now, what I mean is that whatever policy is going to be adopted at the present time, it should take in a long enough range so that the destruction of Filipino standards of living and the resulting destruction of Filipino civilization should not follow. *[Applause]*

TOASTMASTER BUELL: Are these any questions from the floor?

QUESTION: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask President Quezon if there is no alternative between militarizing the people, conscripting them for war, and accepting enslavement by a Pacific power, or some other power? Is it not possible to negotiate a neutrality treaty which will be really effective?

TOASTMASTER BUELL: I am going to ask that question to Mr. Villard, because I want President Quezon to answer another one. The question is: Does Mr. Villard believe that a neutralization agreement for the Philippines will be any more effective than was the Nine-Power Agreement for China?

Mr. VILLARD: I do believe that neutralization is possible, and I am very emphatically of the opinion that it should be attempted, because neutralization is something that has not been developed in international relations as it ought to be. It has been successful international relations as it ought to be. It has been successful conspicuously in the case of Switzerland. It ought to be worked out and tried more and more. Failure would not be wholly a disaster.

And may I, while I am on my feet, just say one thing in reply to President Quezon? The Philippine system as it has been reported in this country is not exactly the Swiss system by any means. For one thing, the Swiss Army is headed by a Colonel and not a Field Marshal. In the second place, it does not extend down into the schools, beginning at the age of ten, and so on.

But as to the actual question of dispute between the President and myself, it is this: Can the Philippines possibly produce money enough to safeguard their country by modern military and naval methods, when they have only got an annual income of \$24,000,000 a year, and a coastline to defend which is only a few thousand miles shorter than our own? Many military and naval men are emphatically of the opinion that it is not possible, and therefore they urge the neutralization of the Philippines as the best way out.

TOASTMASTER BUELL: I have a question directed to President Quezon: What is the social policy of your government with regard to the problem of tenancy and share cropping?

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Before I answer that, I just want to make clear that I am not opposed to the neutralization of the Philippines; I simply say that it is not enough. The neutralization of Switzerland has been effective because Switzerland has trained its citizenship to bear arms.

Mr. VILLARD: No, no.

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Well, that is my opinion, and as to the opinion of my friend, Mr. Villard, as to whether the Philippines can defend itself, and the opinion of an Army General like General MacArthur—you will excuse me if I accept the opinion of General MacArthur rather than his. On the matter of fighting, I believe General MacArthur is better prepared to answer that.

What are we trying to do with this problem of tenancy in the Philippines is this: We are trying to purchase all the large estates and sell them back in small portions to their present occupants, so that the man who will work the land will own the land that he is working on; and it is the idea of the Government to resell these lands to these tenants under such terms and conditions that it will take many years in payment, so that perhaps all they would have to do is pay as much as they are paying now for the tenancy of the land to become owners of the land.

We assert in the Philippines that one of the great social evils is ownership of large estates by absentee landlords, and we are trying to do away with it. We want every Filipino who is working on a farm to own his farm. As a matter of fact, my own belief is that God made the land for the man who will work it, and not for the fellow who will get the profit from others who work it.

TOASTMASTER BUELL: Now there is a question over there.

QUESTION: Would President Quezon please tell us whether in trying to avoid the old cut-throat *laissez faire* individualism, the Philippine Constitution has been more influenced by Fascist ideals, or as in the case of Australia and New Zealand, by the more peaceful, democratic ideals of Socialism?

PRESIDENT QUEZON: I think the question is answered.

TOASTMASTER BUELL: That is to say that the new Philippine Constitution has been more inspired by the ideas of democratic socialism, such as one finds in Australia and New Zealand, than by the ideas of Fascism.

QUESTION: I gathered from Dr. Duggan's words that the Philippines have been getting more from the United States through hospitals, schools and street cleaning, and so on, than the Philippines have given to the United States in goods; at the same time the Americans are in the Philippines because the current of profit must be flowing to the East. Now, am I to understand, then, that the current of profit is flowing both ways?

TOASTMASTER BUELL: I think the question which is addressed to Doctor Duggan is this: Who has got the most money out of the Philippines during the last twenty-five years, the Filipinos or the Americans?

Can you answer that, Doctor Duggan?

Doctor DUGGAN: It doesn't take long to answer it. It is the Americans, without any question. As a matter of fact, you want to understand this: that all these roads and bridges and health services, and other things that I have been talking about, were supported exclusively by taxation of the Filipinos and not by anything given by the American Government. The American Government gave protection to the Filipinos so far, and that is all.

QUESTION: I would like to ask President Quezon about his policy of breaking up all the large landholdings into small farms—or somebody who represents him.

TOASTMASTER BUELL: I am sorry to say that President Quezon had to get a train before the meeting ended, in order to get back to Washington, and we appreciate his willingness to fit this meeting into his very hectic schedule. I wonder if there is one of his staff here who might answer that question. Would you repeat it again?

QUESTION: I want to know, in view of the fact that it is a scientific fact that large-scale farming is more economical than small-scale farming, wouldn't it be more profitable for the Philippine Government to take over

those large-scale farms, like the method of collective farming as used in Soviet Russia, rather than splitting them up onto small farms?

TOASTMASTER BUELL: The question asked is a very vital one, I think, namely, if it is true that large-scale farms are more efficient than small tenant, or peasant holdings, is not the wisest policy for the government to establish collective farms in the Philippines similar to those in Soviet Russia?

Dean Benitez is one of our most distinguished educators who has now come to Washington as a technical assistant.

Dean CONRADO BENITEZ: I would say, in answer to that question, that the Philippine Constitution provides for distribution of the public lands to the people so that the area of land that could be disposed of is limited, 1,024 hectares to corporations; 144 hectares to individuals by purchase, and 24 hectares to individuals by homestead. That has been the traditional policy of the Philippine Government which was incorporated in the Philippine Constitution and what President Quezon stated here a while ago with reference to the expropriation of private landed estates and their subdivision into smaller lots and resale to individuals, of course is another new provision that was adopted by the Philippine Constitution. So you can see from those provisions what the policy of our government is with regard to land distribution.

There is a feeling, which I believe is born from the experience that we had in connection with the farming lands during the Spanish regime, that it is dangerous to have big estates in the hands of a few. As a matter of fact, that is one of the reasons why the revolution against Spain was such a popular move.

Mr. JAMES S. ALLEN: I would have liked to have submitted these questions while President Quezon was still here, but I would like to submit these questions to anyone who would care to answer.

President Quezon has stated that one of the principal aims of the Constitution and of his Administration is to distribute profit, social justice. The first question, therefore, is: Is it not true that the lowest rate of taxation against corporations, I believe, anywhere in the world, exists in the Philippines?

Secondly, I would like to submit this series of questions: Is it not true that the National Assembly passed, and that His Excellency, the President of the Commonwealth, signed, bills which established compulsory labor arbitration which enforce a new decision law even more stringent than the one that existed at the time of early American occupation, that postponed the general elections scheduled for June, 1937, for a year, and gave the President the power to appoint new officers in the interim? And finally, in order, I hope, to clear up the air with regard to the military questions which we have been discussing, is it not true that the Army of the Commonwealth which is now being created under the National Defense Bureau, owes its allegiance to the President of the United States; in other words, has been created as a colonial military force of the United States in the Far East?

And lastly, is it not true that this army has been granted police powers in the Philippines and is being used in that capacity by the present Administration?

TOASTMASTER BUELL: I think all of us regret that President Quezon had to leave before these very searching questions were asked.

Mr. Allen has asked: Is it not true that one of the lowest corporation tax rates in the world exists in the Philippines; that a compulsory labor arbitration law has been enacted; that a new decision ordinance has been passed; that elections have been postponed; and that the Army is really part of the military forces of the United States? I am going to ask Doctor Benitez if he will sacrifice himself in behalf of these questions.

Doctor BENITEZ: Mr. Chairman, I will try to answer them to the best of my ability.

First, yes, that is true; that is why there is a movement to specialize in taxation, to have more taxes collected from the very successful mining corporations, gold mining corporations.

No. 2, yes, that is a part of our Constitution. That was included in the Constitution as a principle so it is perfectly proper for the legislature to enact a law carrying out the principle in the Constitution concerning compulsory arbitration.

Third is decision. Yes, that is true, because we don't want any lawless elements to get hold of the communities, so that we want to give the Department of Justice sufficient power to go after the gangsters.

No. 4, postponement of elections—that was done when I was away last year, so I don't know very much about that, but that is also in line with the philosophy which was adopted in the Constitution. There was quite a heated debate about local riots, whether they should be guaranteed or protected in the Constitution—but if you know the Philippines well you will agree that we do not want to encourage local riots too much, because we don't want some of the islands to be appealing or invoking constitutional provisions in favor of some of their local rights. Remember that we are building a nation, and so far as the Constitution is concerned, it is the national legislature that is guaranteed all of the usual rights that are given to a legislative body, because historically we are not like your Federal Government here, where you started by having sovereign states; we started by having a sovereign nation. That is why all of our local governments are merely branches of the national unit, provinces or municipalities, all of which are mere creations of the legislature.

No. 5, army—well, temporarily, it is, because all of us have to take an oath of allegiance to the United States and we have to promise to defend the Constitution of the United States, but that is according to the present arrangement, only a temporary situation, to last at most nine years from now.

TOASTMASTER BUELL: If there are no further questions, I think that we have witnessed a rather interesting experience: The President of the Commonwealth coming and debating here with us on a question, and despite the fact that he had to leave, we are indebted to Doctor Benitez and the others who waited to hear the conclusion of these remarks.

I pronounce the meeting adjourned.

...The meeting adjourned at three-twenty o'clock...

**Dr. Raymond Leslie Buell, President of the Foreign Policy Association, presiding, introduced President Manuel L. Quezon as follows:*

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and Guests of the Foreign Policy Association:

"The subject of discussion this afternoon is, "The Future of the Philippines," and it is a very great privilege to have with us as the main speaker and guest of honor the President of the Philippine Commonwealth, who will, we hope, soon be President, or sometime be President of the Philippine Republic.

"Our speaker today is in one of the most unenviable positions. I think, of any of the statesmen of the world. His task is to bring into existence a new nation in a world which is very unfriendly to weak peoples unable to settle its disputes by ordinary peaceful means.

"But the statesman we have with us today is a man of great experience and courage. He fought with the Philippine Army in our War with Spain. He was captured and released after six months, and almost entirely during the past twenty-five years he has been the outstanding political leader in the life of the Philippine people.

"Since 1922 he has been the acknowledged head of the Philippine people, and now, since last year he has been the President of the Philippine Commonwealth, a self-governing nation subject to uncertainties with the United States until 1946.

“Some people have been unkind enough to accuse our guest of being a dictator, but I want to say that he has violated the rules of protocol in coming here and discussing his country and his policies with distinguished American guests, and I doubt very much whether Mr. Hitler or Mr. Mussolini would come here and debate Fascism with Oswald Villard or with General Rivers.

“At any rate, I have great pleasure in presenting to you President Manuel Quezon, of the Philippine Commonwealth.” [The audience applauded

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Woman Suffrage and the Philippine Independence

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines On Woman Suffrage and Philippine Independence

[Radiocast from Washington, D. C, to the Philippines, April 4, 1937]

I am very happy to have this opportunity of addressing you today. It is a long way from Washington to the Philippines and I am beginning to feel homesick, but I am here in the performance of a most important duty that I hope will bring happiness to our people. I wish to speak to you on this occasion on two subjects: woman suffrage and immediate Philippine independence.

I wish to reiterate my hope that the women of our country may at last use their right o vote. I hope all the women who possess the qualifications required by law will not only register but also vote favorably on the plebiscite upon this question. Filipino women are not as yet in full possession of all their rights, and unless they make an early decision on this question in the National Administration it will take a long time before all their rights are secured. I hope all the men of the Philippines will be willing to seek the advice and collaboration of their mothers, wives, and daughters in public affairs just as they seek them in their private business. The Filipino woman is the equal of the best in the world and there is no reason why she should not enjoy all the rights and privileges of women in more progressive countries.

Now I want to speak to you on the question of Philippine independence. You are already informed that I have recommended that the period for the granting of independence be shortened so that the Philippines may establish its republic on the 31st of December, 1938, or on the 4th of July, 1939. I understand some people have been surprised that I should make such a proposal at this time, yet any one who has followed closely my public career will have expected me to do so.

Moreover, it is well known that the majority of our people, in accepting the McDuffie-Tydings Law, did so in the hope and expectation that after it has been in operation, certain modifications will be necessary, that the Filipinos will have the right to present to the Government of the United States their point of view on this modification; and my conviction is that it is in the interest of the Philippines, and perhaps no less than in that of the United States, that the period for the granting of the independence be shortened, as I have stated before, * * * because the Philippines will be able within the ten-year period to adjust her national economy.

We accepted the Independence Law upon the assumption that none of its provisions would be amended except with the consent of the Filipino people. Under the provisions of this law the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines were to be on a certain basis, and we took for granted that this basis could be altered during the ten years of the transition period. As a matter of fact, however, soon after the Independence Law was accepted by our people, the Congress of the United States started to amend the provisions of that law regulating our trade relations with America. It would appear, therefore, that Congress feels that it has the right at any time to amend the trade relations between America and the Philippines, regardless of the provisions of the Independence Act.

Under these circumstances, to continue in this present status is simply to cause economic ruin to the Philippines. It is absolutely necessary that we be able to place our trade relations with America on a more stable basis, and there is but one way to accomplish this purpose, namely, to make a treaty between the Governments of the United States and the Philippine Republic. So long as the Philippines remains under the American flag, Congress will always feel at liberty to amend any of those laws affecting Philippines.

Once independent, if we could secure a treaty from the United States similar in terms to the provisions of the Independence Act regulating our trade relations, Congress will have to respect that treaty during the time of its existence. And so I have proposed that the Philippines be granted independence, and I hope within the shortest time

possible, with the idea that a treaty may be entered into between America and the Philippines whereby the trade relations between the two countries, as provided in the Independence Act, may be agreed upon. I am hopeful that such a proposal will not meet with any serious objection on the part on the Government of the United States. Moreover, I think it will not be impossible to secure special trade relations between America and the Philippines after the third period shall have elapsed.

I heard that many of our business men in the Philippines, especially those engaged in the sugar industry, are against my proposal to shorten the period for the granting of independence. Moreover, I have been told that some of these men are against this proposition which I have presented to the Government of the United States because they believe that it will ruin them. But I want to say that this present status affords them no guarantee that during the transition period provided in the Independence Act they will be allowed to sell in the United States the amount of sugar that is allowed free of duty under the terms of that Act. Even now there is pending before Congress a law taxing the sugar coming from the Philippine Islands—a tax which is greater than the tax which has been levied heretofore and which, under the Previous Act, was to return to the Filipino farmer and sugar producer. The tax has not only been raised but also there was no provision in that bill for this tax to be returned to the Philippines.

Who can assure you, sugar barons of the Philippines, who are now protesting against what I am doing, which is for your own protection—who can assure you that next year the Congress of the United States will not further increase the tax on your sugar? Who can assure you that next year the Congress of the United States will not further reduce the amount of sugar that you can sell free of duty to this country? The suggestion that we should remain under the present status is tantamount to an economic suicide on your part. It is only under my proposal that you can find safety and security in your investments. But do not forget that I am prepared, if necessary, to get independence for the Philippines even if I fail to secure for our products the benefit of the market of the United States. The time has come when the Filipino people must decide whether they shall be the masters of their own destiny or not. If we are not willing to assume all the responsibilities of a free people, then let us quit talking about freedom and independence and let us sell our birthright for one million tons of sugar.

Fortunately for you, and fortunately for the whole country, the authorities in Washington are concerned about the future of our people, and they are trying to do everything they can to find a formula whereby we may be independent without very serious injury to our national economy. And I am here precisely to protect our country from all possible unwise legislation that may bring harm to our people. I want you to have faith in me, and I hope you will not embarrass me in my work here by sending protests before you know what you are protesting about. If I succeed in getting the President to recommend to Congress that the period for the granting of independence be shortened, and at the same time the President is authorized to enter into negotiations with the Republic of the Philippines whereby the trade relations between America and the Philippines will be for at least 10 years as provided in the Independence Act, nothing better could happen to our country and to our people.

I have agreed to the creation of a committee of experts that, at the same time that it is studying the different aspects of our trade relations, may also consider how the question of granting independence will affect our national economy. I have appointed to this committee, as our representatives, Secretary of Justice Yulo, Commissioner Paredes, Assemblyman Romero, the majority floor leader, Assemblyman Roxas, the minority floor leader, Mr. Elizalde, a member of the National Economic Council, Dean Conrado Benitez, of the College of Commerce of the University of the Philippines, and Mr. Benito Razon as technical adviser.

This is a very strong committee which, jointly with American and other members, will study the whole and every phase of the Philippine question. They will hold hearings in America as well as in the Philippines so that every one who has something to suggest may be heard, and after they have finished their labor—and I expect that it will be finished next autumn—a report will be submitted by them with their recommendations.

This committee is not the same as the committee contemplated under the provisions of the Independence Act. This is a committee of experts. The other committee will be a committee which, on behalf of the Government of the United States and on behalf of the Government of the Philippines, will proceed to make recommendations as to our trade relations after independence shall have been granted.

Now, my fellow citizens, my time is about up. Don't be panicky, don't be scared by anything that you hear or see printed in the papers as to what might happen to the Philippines. None of you are as interested as I am,—not even the man who owns the sugar factory, or the man who owns the coconut oil factory, or the tobacco factory,—not one of you is more interested than I am in securing for the Philippines economic stability and the consequent prosperity of our people. Even though I have not a cent in any of those industries, I am at least as interested as every one of you, for it is my duty to look after the welfare of our people. Now, I say good-bye to you and I hope you will sleep well after what I have told you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Christian Creed of Filipinos, April 17, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CHRISTIAN CREED OF FILIPINOS

[Delivered upon Acceptance of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*), Conferred upon Him by Georgetown University, Washington, D. C, April 17, 1937.]

Most Reverend Father Rector, Members of the Faculty, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with a very deep sense of gratitude that I accept the honor which this high institution of learning is conferring upon me; and I take it not so much as the measure of your appraisal of my worth as an individual and a public servant, but rather as an evidence of your conviction that the cause in the service of which I have devoted my life is a just and a noble one. More than this, to me this distinction which I am receiving from your hands means that in the estimation of Georgetown University, the Filipino people have attained the dignity of nationhood and have deservedly won their right to self-determination.

By the grace of God, the Filipinos are followers and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Theirs is a Christian civilization. Most of their scholars, for the last three hundred and fifty years, have drunk from the fountain of wisdom which finds its source from the summa theologica of St. Thomas Aquinas, as taught in another Catholic University, the University of Santo Tomas, in Manila, the oldest university under the American flag—my own alma mater.

In true Christian spirit, the Filipino have laid down the foundation stone of their independent existence. When they drafted the Constitution for the Commonwealth which is also to be the Constitution of the Philippine Republic, they sought first the guidance of Divine Providence and inserted in that fundamental law of their land a clause condemning war as an instrument of national policy and pledging our people never to resort to arms except in defense of our country.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Philippine Economic Adjustments, April 19, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS

[Delivered at the First Meeting of the Joint Preparatory Committee
on Philippine-American Affairs, Washington, D. C, April 19,
1937*]

Mr. Secretary:

I just want to say this—that I endorse every word that you have uttered this morning. I share fully your sentiments and I hope that the Committee will undertake this very important work in that spirit as expressed by you. I am positive that the Filipino members of this Committee are going to do the work with one single objective in view, and that is to open their knowledge of the facts as these facts may be useful in the adjustment of American-Philippine trade relations in a manner that will give reasonable assurance to the Filipino people that independence which is granted them by the United States will not mean disaster but success, which in turn means an assurance to the Government of the United States that the carrying out of its mission in the Philippine Islands will end in glory and honor, as well as in the well-being of both countries, for I am positive in the conviction that whatever may be done to help the Filipinos prosper will to that extent also be beneficial to the United States. After meeting Mr. Sayre and talking and discussing with him the program before us many times and also meeting the members of the Inter departmental Committee and most of the gentlemen forming the American part of this Committee (Joint Preparatory), I can honestly say that I feel very hopeful and very confident that the outlook for the work of this Committee is very good. I know that Secretary Sayre and his colleagues in the Interdepartmental Committee, as well as those who are on this Committee (Joint Preparatory) by authority of the President, are all sincerely desirous of helping the Philippines and they are conscious of the moral responsibility which the United States has assumed for the Philip pines, and it is their purpose as far as they can to help the United States perform that responsibility in a manner becoming this great nation.

I am looking forward to the day when this Joint Committee may come to the Philippines. I think it will be a great help to all of you to come to the Islands and I particularly wish to reiterate my desire that Mr. Secretary Sayre may go and visit also the archipelago. It is one thing to consider the situation in the Philippines from your desks here in Washington and another to consider it there; so I should like to see this Committee start for the Philippine Islands not later than the end of June. You would then have time to visit at least the most important places in the Philippines, and then you could get together again and prepare your report in time for the Congress of the Unite States and the National Assembly to consider it.

I hope, as Secretary Sayre said,—and these are to be my last words,—that both Americans and Filipinos on this Committee are going to consider the problems before the from the same point of view on the assumption, which has been a fact in the past, that what is good for the Philippines is good for the United States and vice versa. There must be no attempt to put through any proposal that may beneficial to one people but detrimental to the other.

The work that you have done so far—the members the Committee who have been working on this as members of the Interdepartmental Committee and everyone of you—you ought to feel proud of, and if you accomplish, as I hope

you will, what you are starting to do as Mr. Secretary Sayre said, your work will go down in history as the final crowning work of America in the Philippines.

*This speech was delivered after Assistant Secretary of State Sayre had delivered his address, which follows:

I feel that this is a particularly happy occasion when we can meet together and begin our joint work together. This Committee is charged by the Government of the United States and by the Commonwealth Government with a grave responsibility. I do not think any of us can over-emphasize the responsibility which rests on the shoulders of this Committee. It means a very far-reaching undertaking to find how to adjust Philippine-American commercial and other relationships in a way which will spell future happiness and prosperity for the Philippine people. Their future prosperity is of vital concern to Americans as well; so that our aims are common, our objectives the same. I know that I need not impress upon the members of this Committee how vital a piece of work it is that we are undertaking together.

The terms of reference governing the work of this Committee have already been mapped out in the brief memorandum which President Quezon and I initiated at our former meeting. In that memorandum we set forth with care the objectives and the functions of this Committee. You will remember that we agreed that within a certain specified scope this Committee should have general and pretty extensive powers of recommendation. We agreed that the Filipinos should be given an opportunity to attain economic independence as well as political independence. We agreed that the system of preferential trade relations should be terminated at the earliest practicable date consistent with affording the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust their national economy. It would not be fair or right suddenly to make abrupt changes which might entail economic disaster to large sections of the Philippine people. We desire to give the Filipinos the best chance possible to place their economic regime upon a sound and stable foundation, and that is going to take a little time. I am sure that the American people want the Philippine people to have the maximum chance possible to make good and to continue to maintain the independence which we are to give them.

Further I want to emphasize the fact that this is a joint committee I hope no one will allow the thought to come into his head that this group is a combination of two committees,—an American committee and a Philippine committee. Our objectives and our purposes are the same. I want to see Filipinos and Americans working together shoulder to shoulder, not in two groups but as a single unit. I hope there will be no occasion for any kind of bargaining or haggling and I do not intend to permit that kind of thing. We are trying to map out the best possible future economic program for the Philippines.

Also, let me clear that it is not in the minds of any of us that the Philippines shall be compelled to adopt the program and recommendations which the Committee works out. I myself should very much deprecate the idea that we are going to force something upon the Filipinos. What we are concerned about is mapping out the program, which so far as the best minds can foresee, will prove the most practicable and best calculated to give to the Filipinos a stable economic independence. If they wish to adopt it, well and good; if they don't, it is for them to find a better program. Let us get away from any idea that we are proposing to chart a pathway which President Quezon or other Philippine leaders must follow. We believe that this Committee will recommend whatever course seems most practicable and wise.

Of course, all of us here understand that this Committee is facing a task which is merely preparatory and advisory in its nature. We have not the power to decide upon courses of action. We have no power to control future legislation. But I hope that the work of the Committee will be so sound that at the end of the autumn when the Committee makes its report its recommendations will win universal support by virtue of the worth and value of the report itself. I hope that the report and its recommendations will be so appealing, so inevitable because of the careful marshalling of facts leading up to the conclusions that both the American Congress and the Commonwealth Assembly will see fit to follow the recommendations and to embody them in such legislation as may seem necessary and desirable. Whether or not they see fit to do so depends, of course entirely upon the American Congress and the Philippine

Assembly. Our duty is to advise, point out, suggest; and then it will be for the two legislative bodies to follow our suggestions as they see fit or as they decide.

In conclusion, may I suggest that this meeting this morning may come to be regarded as an historic occasion in the Philippine-American relationship. The American and Philippine peoples, through their official representatives, have come together with singleness of purpose to strive for a common objective,—without bargaining or trying to gain some advantage over each other. In seeking to ascertain and marshal the facts and from these to reach sound conclusions and make wise recommendations we have put our shoulders together to the wheel to seek the objective which all of us have in common. I feel that I should congratulate every member of this Committee on the challenging opportunity which he has in thus helping to build constructively for the future of an independent Philippine people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on the Results of the trip to the United States (Delivered in Tagalog), August 16, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Results of the trip to the United States (Delivered in Tagalog)**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace Balcony, Manila, August 16, 1937]

In nations where autocracy and despotism reign, those who attack the Government are killed. Here, where there is no person as continuously and gravely attacked as I, no critic is killed or sent to jail, because there is freedom and democracy here.

MY COMPATRIOTS:

We are greatly satisfied and happy over the tribute which the people have showered us and because of this we express our sincere gratitude with open hearts.

I learned that, during my absence, some of my friends criticised my trip, saying that I abandoned my duty here. To this, my answer is that due to this trip I return with P100,000,000 which shall be spent for the welfare of the people.

They say that I spent the money of the people. Granting that this is true, the amount that I spent is very little. Compared with the sum I brought back for the people, a sum which will be used in helping the poor.

Tomorrow, I shall order government engineers to pay, Manila laborers a minimum wage of P1.25 and provincial laborers, P1.00. If this is not enough, I shall order the amount increased. You should give thanks that this trip will enable the opening of public schools wherever they are necessary.

Due to this trip, "the platform of the coalition party as to the purchase of large haciendas will be carried out. By this plan, tenants whose grandfathers have been occupying these lands for years, without hope of ever owning a part of it, would be able to acquire land.

My trips abroad are criticized, but others also have been going abroad almost as often and yet they are not criticized. The purposes of my trips are for the good of the country. In the first trip, I brought back the Jones Law, in the second, the Tydings-McDuffie Act; and now I bring money to the people. On the other hand, what did the others bring back? Words and nothing else but words.

There is a saying that a man is known for what he does and what he says. When I accepted the nomination for the Presidency, one of my promises was to bring about the happiness, of the people. Now, another occasion presents itself to enable me to comply with that promise, which is a promise of aid to the people, and for this reason I expect that not only those in the Government, but also those who are sincere critics of the Government, will extend their cooperation for the triumph of our liberty.

But if they refuse to cooperate and instead continue with their attacks, they can go ahead. There is democracy here. In nations where autocracy and despotism reign, those who attack the Government are killed. Here, where there is no person as continuously and gravely attacked as I, no critic is killed or sent to jail, because there is freedom and democracy here.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on conditions abroad and in the Philippines, August 19, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CONDITIONS ABROAD AND IN THE PHILIPPINES

[Delivered over the Radio on the Occasion of His Birthday Anniversary, Malacañan Palace, Manila, August 19, 1937]

Fellow-Citizens, Friends and Beloved Ones, Here and Across the Seas:

I am very happy and deeply grateful tonight, happy and grateful for these evidences of good will and high esteem which are shown me on every side. I thank you all. I thank specially my very dear friend, our former Governor-General, and the two Filipino girls who took part in this program from the other side of the globe, and all the others who with their participation in this program, have made the evening so pleasant to me. Specially do I thank the people of the Philippines, my own dear people, who are celebrating my birthday by contributing to the fund for the campaign against tuberculosis, one of the most dreadful diseases that affect our people.

I am happy and grateful to see that, after so many years in public life, the trust which the country has reposed in me appears to be undiminished.

I am happy and grateful, above all, because the Philippines today is the best country upon the face of God's world to live in and is inhabited by the happiest people. In my recent trip abroad, I saw restlessness, everywhere a feeling of discontent prevailing amongst all classes of society. The public mind seems to be gripped with fear of what the morrow may bring. I had the impression that humanity has never been so unhappy, so disgusted with its lot. Misery and want are in evidence everywhere, side by side with plenty and wealth. War is threatening; indeed, in some countries it is actually taking place. As I crossed the oceans and saw all these things, I wondered if we were not going through one of those periods in human history when a civilization built up after millenniums of efforts and struggle is utterly destroyed to pass into oblivion.

We should be thankful to Almighty God that here the firmament is blue, free from the clouds of either a menacing war from without or of a public disorder from within. Man freely breathes the air of liberty and his heart is full of hope, not of fear. Here we may go to bed at night and be sure that the following day the roar of guns or the tumult of sit-down strikes will not disturb our peace and the orderly processes of industry. In order to foster private initiative and at the same time to protect our less fortunate citizens from the abuses and injustices of greed, we have here found the happy medium between the theory of *laissez faire* and the regulation by the State of the interplay of economic forces.

It is our solemn and inescapable duty, not only to maintain the happy situation, but to improve it so that the masses may feel more and more happy and contented.

During the last year and a half of the Commonwealth, we have achieved unparalleled progress in the life of the nation. What we have accomplished within this short period of time has never been accomplished in any ten years in the past. The finances of our Government are sounder than ever. The evidence of an increasing prosperity is seen in the fact that, without manipulation, the prices of all articles and products are going up because of greater demand. We have built more schools and there are more children in the schools than ever. We have not only built more roads

in the more advanced regions of the Philippines, but also, for the first time in history, widely separated sections of the island of Mindanao are now connected with the road that goes from Cagayan de Misamis through Lanao and Cotabato to Davao. The laws enacted by the National Assembly for the well-being of our workingmen and the needy are too well known and too numerous to detail.

Much as we have done in the last year and a half, we are going to do more in the next few years.

We shall extend the blessings of education to every child of school age in our country. We shall build roads that will facilitate the transportation of our products to market. We shall build more hospitals and leprosaria. We shall improve the sanitary conditions of our municipalities by providing them with pure water. We shall break up the few remaining big, landed estates by acquiring them from their owners and selling them to the tillers of the soil. We shall give impetus to the development of Mindanao. We shall establish new industries. In other words, we shall adopt and carry out a long-range program of economic development as well as of social service. It is my ambition that the Philippines become a country where Poverty is unknown, and where justice is the watchword, and democracy and freedom the motto.

My countrymen, once more let me thank you for the evidences of love and affection you have again given me since my return to these, our beautiful Islands from my trip abroad. On this my birthday, once more I implore the guidance of Divine Providence in the performance of my trust and I appeal to you your continued cooperation.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Creation of Chartered Cities and Social Justice, August 25, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CREATION OF CHARTERED CITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

[Delivered upon the Inauguration of the City of Iloilo, Iloilo City,
August 25, 1937]

Mr. Governor, Mr. Mayor, Ambassador MacMurray, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have come to be present at the inauguration of the new city government of Iloilo.

At the last session of the National Assembly, that legislative body enacted laws creating the Cities of Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga, and Davao. With the exception of Davao, the initiative for the enactment of these laws came exclusively from the Assemblymen representing the various provinces to which the newly-created cities belong.

In the case of Davao, that city was created by common agreement between the executive department, on the one hand, and the Assemblyman from Davao, the Honorable Romualdo Quimpo, on the other. The executive department and Assemblyman Quimpo agreed that, there being a large foreign population in Davao, as there is in Manila and in Baguio, a city government similar to that existing in Manila or Baguio should be provided for Davao.

I am not prepared to say positively that, from the stand point of democratic principles, the creation by the National Assembly of these new cities is theoretically, at least, a progressive step. The question is open to discussion and volumes could be said and written in support of either side. I am certain, however, of the following facts:

1. That the law which provides for the appointment, instead of the election, of the mayor will free the new cities from the influence of partisan politics in the administration of their affairs and in the execution of their laws. Thus, the efficiency and impartiality of the city government, in the administration and execution of its laws and ordinances, will be better insured.
2. That the people of the city thus created have not lost control of their local government, because the city council is still elective, and retains the power to pass ordinances, impose municipal taxes, and appropriate municipal funds as before.
3. That the idea of having an appointive city mayor and even an appointive municipal board is not original with the Filipinos. When the Insular Government was still entirely controlled by an American Commission, the city governments of Manila and Baguio were constituted exclusively of appointive, as distinguished from elective, officials. This is not to say that because a certain political institution is of American origin, it is necessarily a wise creation. But it is well to state this fact as an argument in case criticism against what has been done by the National Assembly should come from either local Americans or certain Filipino quarters.
4. That the City of Washington, the capital of the United States, is governed by a board appointed by the President of the United States. As a matter of fact, the residents of that city are not even permitted to exercise the right to vote in any election, including the presidential election.

5. That in the French Republic, for instance, which some people consider as leaning too much towards the extreme Left, the prefects (provincial governors) are appointive.

6. That, under the constitution, ours is a unitarian—as contrasted from a federal—state. The duty to execute all laws is vested in the American governors-general, under legislation enacted by the former American Commission. The Chief Executive of the Philippines always has had, and has exercised, control and supervision over all the provincial and municipal officials. In making, therefore, the mayors of Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga and Davao appointive, instead of elective, officials, no substantial change has taken place in the ultimate control and administration of public affairs in these cities, since that ultimate control has always been placed in the hands of the American governors-general. In other words, the National Assembly simply made the form conform to the substance in the management of local governments.

7. In the United States, due to the corruption in the government of some of the great cities, there has developed a strong demand for what is called city management, and, at times, for the nomination of candidates to city offices by non-partisan leagues. This proves that, even in America, a conviction is growing that in local governments partisan politics is absolutely unjustified and not conducive to the public good.

Let me pause here and say that this is true in the United States, it is more so in the Philippines. What, may I ask, are the local issues in the Philippines? What can be the social issues here, considering the limited scope of powers possessed by the provincial and municipal governments? Only issues based on personalities rather than on principles.

See the records of all provincial and municipal elections. Every political party seeking control of provincial and municipal governments has appeared before the electorate with the same slogan, namely, that it will build more schools, more roads, and will give a more honest and less partisan administration. With questions of national import, the provincial and municipal governments have no power whatsoever to deal; therefore, the discussion amongst provincial and municipal candidates of national issues is purely academic.

Lastly, whether the measures creating these new cities with appointive mayors are, theoretically, a step forward or backward in local autonomy, there is one outstanding and undeniable fact, namely, that the assemblymen who sponsored these measures before the National Assembly are courageous men—men who, rightly or wrongly, have done what they honestly believed to be for the good of their people, regardless of the consequences to their political fortunes of the enactment of those measures which they knew would be branded by their political opponents as undemocratic.

These are the kind of assemblymen that we should elect and have—men capable of placing the interest of the people above their own.

In the exercise of the power which has been given me to appoint the mayors of these newly-created cities, I have carried out, not only the letter but the spirit of the law, in the very face of attempted partisan influences from every side. For Cebu, Zamboanga, and Davao, I have appointed as mayors men who have been for many years in the service of the Government, who occupied their previous positions after passing civil service examinations, and who have remained and have been promoted in the public service in accordance with civil service rules and regulations. Each and every one of these men has made a splendid record as a good executive and administrator, as an honest and patriotic public servant.

The man whom I have appointed mayor of the City Iloilo is the one exception. Doctor Campos is a renowned practising physician, an individual of excellent record in this city, not only as a doctor but as a man and a citizen. I did not choose Doctor Campos. He was recommended to me by representatives of the different elements of Iloilo, political and otherwise. He has the endorsement of Governor Consing, Assemblymen Montinola, Zulueta, Confesor, Salcedo, and Buenaflores. The business community is for him. Some labor leaders whom I consulted also approve of his appointment.

When I tendered the appointment to Doctor Campos, he begged me to be allowed to decline it, on the ground that his professional and business interests would suffer thereby. Upon my insistence, Doctor Campos accepted the post only as a public duty that he could not well evade.

I congratulate Doctor Campos and the people of Iloilo, and I express the hope that both will be thankful for this appointment; Mayor Campos, because it affords him an opportunity to serve his people, the people of a great and progressive city, and the people of Iloilo, because under Mayor Campos' administration the city will, I am confident, develop and improve.

I want to say one word about Governor Consing. I have thought of Governor Consing for the mayorship of this city, but the question of finding his successor in the governor's chair was a political problem of no mean proportions. Again, I feared that his appointment might be misconstrued as primarily political, and so he himself preferred the appointment of Doctor Campos.

Despite the coalition of the two national political parties, partisanship in the provinces has been very difficult, indeed has been impossible, to eliminate. Iloilo, however, has not given me so much concern or trouble as the other provinces; I know that the fight between pros and antis is going on here, but it is a gentlemen's fight and not so noisy as to disturb my peaceful sleep at night. This happy situation is due to Governor Consing and Assemblyman Montinola on the one hand, and to Assemblymen Zulueta, Confesor, Salcedo, and Buenaflor, on the other hand. I wish to thank them all and I take leave to crave their continued cooperation in my endeavor to turn the public mind, temporarily, at least, from bitter, partisan politics to a more constructive and high-spirited administration of public affairs.

The country needs our common purpose and our combined efforts, and we must give both with enthusiasm and determination. Thus only can we insure the future happiness, well-being, and liberty of our people.

To conclude, I wish to say one word on behalf of the working class:

We must all cooperate to find the means and to use these to improve the lot of the working classes in the Philippines. Particularly should the provinces enjoying the benefits of the sugar industry immediately and substantially raise the wages of labor. No industry in the Philippines is being benefited by our trade relations with America nearly so much as the sugar industry. There have sprung in Negros, Iloilo and Pampanga, in the last few years, millionaires as we have never had before. They have palaces, automobiles, and live a life of comfort and luxury here and abroad. I am not criticizing them; it is their privilege to spend their money as they please. I am merely stating a fact, for I want to point out that we are doing everything we can, not only to prevent the collapse, but to maintain in full blast, the prosperity of the sugar industry. But the government demands that this prosperity be shared with the workingmen in the sugar fields and in the sugar centrals. Very little, if any, of the immense profits of the sugar industry, has gone into the pockets of labor.

I say in all earnestness, to the owners of sugar centrals and to the proprietors of sugar lands that unless they raise the wages of their laborers and treat them better, the Government and the country may lose interest in the defense of the sugar industry.

We cannot be the servants of a privileged class. We are the servants of the whole people and we shall not permit an injustice to be done, much less perpetuated, against any constituent part of our community. Unless the sugar industry, of its own accord, increases immediately the wages of its workingmen, I shall ask the National Assembly to enact legislation that will compel that industry to do so.

We are living in an age in which civilized society can only endure if justice is accorded equally to the rich and to the poor. Those who have can only hope to keep their possessions indefinitely, if they share part of their profits with those who work for them. This is a question of justice, not of charity. A man is more entitled to the fruits of his labor than the proprietor to the rent of his property.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon during the Conference with the Delegation of the Young Philippines, September 29, 1937
Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
During the Conference with the Delegation of the Young Philippines

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, Manila, September, 29, 1937]

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW AND ELECTIONS

The only justification for people to disagree in politics should be a difference of ideas and in fundamental principles of government.

It is one thing to destroy a building and another to construct one. You can destroy a building by calling people together and telling them to go ahead and destroy it. But in the work of construction you must have a plan and everybody working on that building must work in accordance with that plan.

The only tie that can produce good is the tie of love. Love can produce good things. Hatred can only destroy; it can never build up because hatred is not creative, it is destructive. It is love that is creative.

In the first place, I want to say that as far as the enforcement of the Civil Service Law and regulations in the government offices is concerned, I have been trying to do it ever since I became the President, and I intend to do it as long as I am President. We have been somewhat liberal, in the enforcement of the Civil Service Rules, in the case of men who have already been in the service for many years and who have made good records as honest men. Like the case of these poor policemen who are in the service, we are giving them to prepare themselves for the Civil Service examination. As far as new appointments are concerned, we require strictly that they take a Civil Service examination and be properly qualified under the Civil Service rules, except in cases where the Constitution provides that they may be exempted from the Civil Service rules. So you need not worry about it.

And, as to the question of public improvements, it will be solved in accordance with a plan which the Chief Executive is devising for submission to the Assembly, a plan having in view, not the policy of favoring any province or group of provinces, but having in mind the impartial objective of the Government—the development of the resources of the country in a scientific and systematic way and with the best results for the largest number of people. Under this plan, if the Assembly will approve it, appropriations will not be used to reward or punish a province, according as it has vetoed for or against the candidates of the majority party. That should be known to everybody. We shall prepare a national program of economic development, but of course the final decision rests with the Assembly, and you, gentlemen, know that the final authority on appropriations is vested by the Constitution in the National Assembly. All that I can do is to recommend. It is my hope, however, that the National Assembly will accept my recommendations in this respect.

You say something here about amending the law so as to permit young men to be candidates for public office—that is, the provision in the Election Law that a candidate for governor be at least 30 years of age. I saw no necessity for that provision, but I could not veto the bill because we have to have elections, and if I had vetoed that provision, I would have vetoed the whole bill. In drafting that age provision, the Assembly took into consideration the fact that before a man can be a candidate for the National Assembly, he should at least be 30 years old, and the fact that the position of provincial governor entails a greater responsibility, as far as the individuals are concerned, than membership in the National Assembly. Responsibility and power are vested in the National Assembly as a body, and, therefore, one man alone cannot destroy the whole work of the Assembly. In the case of a governorship, the

responsibility is individual, and the National Assembly argued that if members of the National Assembly must be 30 years of age at least, then a governor should also be of that age. But I would, not have considered that a good step, and I would, have so expressed myself, if I could have told them I was informed that the provision was inserted in order to prevent Vinzons from being a candidate. However, I want him to be a candidate, because if he is defeated, the defeat would show that the province is not with him. If he wins, I would have the opportunity to see if he can make a good governor, and we will give him a chance, but if he turns out to be a bad governor, I will go after him and suspend him.

I am not afraid of any governor. That is why I am sorry that that provision prevented Vinzons from becoming a candidate. The fact remains that I could not veto the provision increasing the age of provincial officials to 30 years; any change will depend on the Assembly. As to your complaint that the Chief Executive will interfere with the work of a governor of the opposition party, I can say that I shall not be prejudiced against him. As a matter of fact, I do not care to what party he belongs; provided he performs his duties well, I shall not intervene. I don't care who the governor of a province is. I suspended the governor of Albay, who is an Anti, another in Samar, and another in Zamboanga, a Pro. I don't care to which party the governor belongs provided he does his duties well. If he does not do what he should do, I will punish him irrespective of his political color. I am going to exercise the executive power of the Government under the law, in accordance with the power I have, and nobody can be in my way in the exercise of my function or in the performance of my duty. I know the limit of my authority and the extent of my duties. So, I think that is all about your positive recommendations.

I cannot leave unanswered your assertion in your memorial about the Anti-Pro controversy. You are practically telling me that the Antis won the last elections through government manipulation. That is an outrage. I was sick during those elections. I knew I could beat the Pros, regardless of what you young men could do. You make another statment that I cannot let go unchallenged. There is a provision in the Tydings-McDuffie Law which establishes a substantial difference between the two laws. In the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law that provision was there, but I am interested only in the substance of the thing. That was not an independence bill, I hate to talk about this now, now that I have forgiven and forgotten all those who fought against me. As a matter of fact, I have given high positions in the government to those persons. But I cannot, for historical reasons, let the statement in your memorial lie unchallenged—that the Tydings-McDuffie Law and the Hare-Hawes-Gutting Law were the same—because that is not true. That provision alone constitutes such a difference as to make one an independence bill and the other not, I was willing to accept the law when the provision for military and naval reservations was removed, I am not afraid of independence. It was nonsense what the Pro leaders said—that I did not want independence,

You also assert that through frauds the Antis won the elections against the Pros, I have never tolerated frauds in elections. I have never been elected through fraud. It is true that an immense majority of the students of the University of the Philippines were against me in the fight, simply because they were influenced by their President and professors. You yourself, Mr. Vinzons, were influenced by the speeches of President Palma. Influenced by their President, the students naturally were against me, but I had the confidence of the people and that was the reason why I won the elections.

It is not true that there are major differences between the two parties. The only cause for disagreement was the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law. But we agreed on a platform. The only justification for people to disagree in politics should be a difference of ideas and in fundamental principles of government. It is perfectly ridiculous to be in the opposition simply because you much prefer to be in the opposition and not in the majority. My choice of party should depend on whether I agree or disagree with you. If you happen to be in the opposition and the majority agrees with you, then there is no reason for the difference and you must belong to the same party. For the Pros and Antis to continue fighting each other is to play a dishonest comedy; and when we agreed to join, it was for the better.

I hope there will be a strong minority party, but this idea of merging all opposition parties because they are all against me is terrible. The result would be such that, if those opposition groups succeeded in defeating the majority, they would be unable to carry out any policy. It is one thing to destroy a building and another to construct one. You can destroy a building by calling people together and telling them to go ahead and destroy it. But in the work of obstruction you must have a plan and everybody working on that building must work in accordance with that plan. The opposition must not be maintained merely to defeat the majority. They must formulate a platform that will give

basis for their opposition; and in case they turn down the majority, they must have one objective, one common purpose.

I have seen in the papers that leaders are calling together all the opposition groups so that they may merge for the purpose of defeating the majority. They should have a platform for their objective. If they have that, then they are all right. But it's already a defective organization from the very beginning. Do you think that it is possible for that opposition to grow? You don't expect me to use the power of my office to create an opposition here. I cannot create an opposition, but I shall give any opposition a chance at a fair fight.

I am going to enforce the Election Law. I would send even my own brother to jail if he violated the Election Law. If the opposition starts by being divided amongst themselves, since they are only joining together because of their hatred against the Government or against me, nothing good for the Government can come out of it. The only tie that can produce good is the tie of love. Bear that in mind as long as you live. Love can produce good things. Hatred can only destroy; it can never build up because hatred is not creative, it is destructive. It is love that is creative.

It is not true that the Nationalist Party maintained itself in power by using the Government. Patronage alone cannot succeed. When I fought Osmeña, the Colectivista Party was organized all over the Philippines. I did not have much time to organize it well because the fight started one month before the elections, but I had more senators and representatives after the elections. I had something definite to offer. The people believed in my objective, and their belief resulted in the triumph of my party. We joined our parties, but we did it then under the principle of collective leadership.

I am not accustomed to receive and not to return attacks, but I permit people to discuss opinions that are contrary to mine.

(Referring to Vinzons.) This fellow never had a right to be against me. I have gone out of my way to give him a chance, but he has always been against me. Those who prevented him from being a candidate were his own party associates before. No, I don't work like that. I don't resent the fact that people are against me. The best proof is the case of President Palma. He created the belief that I was a traitor to the country, that I was a dangerous public man. I know that Palma believed in good faith what he said. He was attacking me because he thought he was right. I went after him. I defeated him, but I did not punish him. When I had the chance to do something for him, I did it because I knew he could render service to the Government. And I am willing to give a chance to every man.

If you can organize an opposition party that has principles and you want to criticize the Government, then that is all right. I had the Department of Justice go over these laws to which you are referring. I am convinced that nobody can be jailed for sedition under the laws simply because he criticizes the Government. I don't believe that can be done under these laws which forbid the curtailing of the freedom of speech, and of the press, etc. I don't believe that you can do that. What the Sakdalistas said about me is awful, but nobody went to jail for that. I am not perfect; I know that. It is true that there are laws providing that the Government can jail anybody who is actually committing a seditious act, but there is nothing that would permit the conviction of any man who is only exercising his prerogatives as a citizen.

I think that is all.

If there is anybody among you whose ability, character, and integrity justify his appointment to an office, I have no objection to appointing him. But I am not going to appoint a man simply because he is of the opposition party. There are people who believe that the way to attract attention is to attack the Government. I don't get scared—I am not scared. I have no objection to bringing a man into the Government who has attacked me after defeating him. I first fight him and if he wants to make a noise let him make a noise.

(Answering a question asked by a member of the delegation whether His Excellency would favor the candidacy of Vinzons, the President said that he prefers not to favor the candidacy of anybody. He is neither for nor against it. He told them that at the age of 25 he was already a governor. "And I claim," he said, "that I was good governor.")

(He told the conferees that if they wanted to, they could send him a petition for the amendment of that portion of the Election Law dealing with the age of candidates for governor and said that he would recommend it favorably to the National Assembly. He told them, however, that he could not include it in his message to the National Assembly at its regular session which will convene on October 16th, but that he would send a message to the Speaker recommending it favorably.)

(He made mention of the fact that the leaders of the Assembly during his time were all young—Gabaldon, Osmeña, Adriatico, Orense, himself, and others. Among the members of the National Assembly were also some of the old members of the Malolos Constitution. He said that they treated the old members well, but that the young members ran the show.)

(The delegation also asked the President what he thought of the idea of having the Young Philippines stand as a separate opposition party. He said that he did not have any objection, provided that they fought the majority on principles and not on hatred; and provided further that they elect their leaders.)

(Commenting on the Barredo case, he pointed out the fact that many Presidents of the United States did the same thing—Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt—when the courts committed blunders in their decisions. He said that these men simply exercised the principles of democracy, for no man should just sit by and keep his mouth shut about any wrong done—that is not encroaching upon the independence of the judiciary. He said that he was not content to simply say, “The Assembly did it,” or “The courts did it.” “I am the only man elected by the people of the whole country,” he went on, “and they have the right to demand that I see justice done. I am the first servant of the people. I am going to fight. If it is within the rights of the Executive Department, I will fight. What will the people say if they see me doing nothing in this regard? I cannot be placed in that position. If that is the price of the presidency, I don’t want to be president.”)

(The President advised the members of the delegation that if they want to be politicians, they should stand by something that is fundamental, saying that the people follow only leaders who are bold.)

From Messages of the Philippines, Vol. 3, Part I, pp. 130-138.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Principles of Law and Justice, October 2, 1937

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Principles of Law and Justice**

[Delivered at the University of Santo Tomas, October 2, 1937]

A lawyer's diploma should be a guaranty to the world that its holder is a living exponent of fair play, an impartial advocate of justice, a God-chosen instrument for the defeat of wrong and the triumph of right—rather than a technician skilled in the art of legal subtleties, for the benefit of a particular client,

Human laws are but the application to human relationships of the eternal principles of divine justice,

I would . . . interpret my oath to “do justice to every man” as imposing upon me the duty not only to do justice in cases where the decision rests with the Executive, but also to see that the other branches of the Government do not commit acts of injustice to any man.

Nothing will give our people greater confidence in their Government and in their public officials—whether of the executive, the legislative or the judicial departments—than the willingness of each department to watch each other and denounce each other's mistakes or wrongdoings before the bar of public opinion.

Reverend Father-Hector, Mr. Dean, Faculty and Students of the College of Law, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I address you this evening at the invitation of the students of the College of Law of this ancient institution of higher learning, I feel an inmost satisfaction and pride that what I know of the principles of law and justice, I have learned from this college, and my love and devotion to the lofty ideals and high purposes which underlie and give life to the legal profession, I have imbibed from men, who have graced the professional chairs of this university and whose names will go down in history as the personification, of the best that can be found among judges and professors of law anywhere in the world.

Time there was in our country when the appellative lawyer was taken to mean a champion of human rights, a venerable soldier of truth and justice, an apostle of peace and general well-being, Isaac Fernando de los Rios, Cayetano Arellano, Victorino Mapa, Florentine Torres, Manuel Araullo, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Apolinario Mabini, Rafael del Pan, and many others raised the prestige of the legal profession to that height. They were not only shining lights of their calling but also commanding pillars of right and justice. One or two of them left some fortune, most of them died poor; all of them embraced the profession of law; not so much as a means of livelihood, but because in their hearts there burned a consuming fire urging them to fight wrong and injustice.

As days went by, and as the spiritual and ideal things of life gave way to the inroads of materialism, the legal professional outlook became more and more subjected to materialistic influences, to the extent that the worth of a lawyer nowadays is generally gauged by the amount of money that he earns from his profession, rather than by the moral value of his services to the community.

To those of you who are now preparing yourselves to follow the call of the legal profession, let me say that only those who are willing to sacrifice themselves in the interest of justice should embrace that profession. Law is not a business calling. It is a vocation, an apostleship of justice and fair dealing. A lawyer's diploma should be a guaranty

to the world that its holder is a living exponent of fair play, an impartial advocate of justice, a God-chosen instrument for the defeat of wrong and the triumph of right—rather than a technician skilled in the art of legal subtleties, for the benefit of a particular client.

To know law is not merely to know by heart the civil and criminal codes or the codes of civil and criminal procedure. One may well recite from memory every line of every code that is in force, and yet not really know law. On the other hand, one may have but general ideas as to what the codes contain, and still be in fact a learned and profound jurist.

The study of law requires also the study of logic, psychology and ethics. It requires especially the study of the philosophy of the law, for knowledge of law means familiarity with those fundamental principles of right and justice which must be the foundation of all law, in order that it may deserve the respect and obedience of conscientious men.

It was Saint Thomas Aquinas, the patron of this university, who defined law as “an ordinance of reason, for the common welfare, promulgated by those who govern the community. Ordinatio rationis ad bonum comme ab eo sui curam comunitatis habet promulgata.” Laws differ because the ideas, habits, customs and needs of people differ. But the laws of a civilized and progressive community can have but one source—reason, and but one objective—justice. Rationally considered, and bearing in mind the differences of ideas, practices, needs and conditions of the time, you will find that laws are fundamentally in accord. Distingae tempora et concordavit jura. And it must be so, for human laws are but the application to human relationships of the eternal principles of divine justice.

Where momentous changes in the law have taken place, during the last twenty-five or thirty years, is in the relationship of the state with society and in the relative rights and duties between capital and labor. Indeed, it can be said that the entire political and social make-up of the world has undergone such a transformation, demanding the enactment of new legislation, as no one ever dreamed of, or could have predicted in those days when I was a law student of this college. The irresistible forces of human progress have brought upon us a new philosophy in the science of government, new concepts in the relation of man to man, and an ever increasing application to our social and economic order in all its varied aspects, of that “all men are created equal.”

It is well to remember in this Catholic University that this principle which has become also the cornerstone of democracy was preached two thousand years ago by the Son of God, although it has taken the world two millenniums to learn that the application in human relationship of the teachings of the Galilean offers humanity the only escape from self-destruction.

We are fortunate indeed that this new nation of ours is coming to life of its own, at a time when we can mold it in accordance with the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith—the basic principle of the true philosophy of law. Our Constitution embodies the living ideas of our time. It contains the solemn declaration that “the promotion of social justice to insure the well-being, and economic security of all the people should be the concern of the State.” And to enable the State to perform this sacred duty, it invests the Government with extraordinary powers so that it may enact and execute laws, designed to promote the well-being of the people and to insure justice in the relationship between capital and labor.

While the powers of government are vested under the Constitution in three co-equal, coordinate and separate branches—the executive, the legislative and the judicial—just as it is in the Government of the United States under its Constitution—we find in the Constitution of the Philippines significant differences in the scope of the power given to each branch of the Government and in the manner in which these powers are to be exercised. Under the Constitution of the Philippines, unlike that of the United States, the Government has been granted specifically the power to enact laws “that will protect labor and will regulate the relations between land owner and tenant and between labor and capital, both in industry and agriculture,” and other powers that are necessary to place in the hands of the Government every means to insure the economic security of the people.

Bearing in mind that the Supreme Court of the United States, by a bare majority of one vote, declared unconstitutional laws enacted by Congress for the promotion of the well-being of the masses, the framers of our

Constitution have provided that, in order to declare a law enacted by the National Assembly unconstitutional, and therefore null and void, a two-thirds vote of our Supreme Tribunal is necessary.

Another significant difference in our Constitution is that more extensive powers are vested in our Chief Executive than are granted by the American Constitution to the President of the United States. This is because the responsibility placed upon the Philippine Chief Executive to give life and effectiveness to the political philosophy underlying the Constitution, transcends the responsibility given to the President of the United States under the Constitution of that Government.

Upon the organization of the Government of the Commonwealth, although this Government superseded an already existing one, operating through its three branches—the executive, the legislative, and the judicial—the Constitution, instead of providing for the continuance in office of the justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the courts of first instance and justice of the peace, gave to the President of the Philippines the power and responsibility of appointing new justices and judges within a given period of time and virtually entrusted him with the duty of reorganizing the entire judiciary.

This duty was to be performed by the President of the Philippines after he had taken his oath of office wherein he swears or affirms as follows:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as President of the Philippines, preserve and defend its Constitution, execute its laws, do justice to every man, and consecrate myself to the service of the Nation.”

Contrast that oath with the simpler one provided for the President of the United States in the United States Constitution, and you will readily see the difference, this is the oath required by the American Constitution of the President of the United States:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

“Do justice, to every man.”—That is the solemn covenant that I have entered into with our people when I took my oath of office as President of the Philippines. These words “do justice to every man” which are found in my oath, do not, of course, mean that the President of the Philippines has been vested with any judicial power to adjudicate cases between the Government and its citizens, or between the citizens themselves. The judicial power is vested exclusively in the Supreme Court and in the inferior courts, now already created or which may be created by the National Assembly. But the words “do justice to every man” mean that the Chief Executive must always be alert and vigilant, so that justice may reign supreme over this land and this he can accomplish only by a careful and conscientious exercise of his power to appoint members of the judiciary, and by his readiness to take action, in the manner prescribed by law, against judges who may be derelict in the performance of their duties, or, short of committing malfeasance in office, to arraign them at the bar of public opinion, whenever in his opinion the denunciation of any wrongful act, even though performed in good faith, would be in the public interest.

In the choice of the judges whom I have appointed to the Supreme Court and to the other inferior courts, I can say with a clear conscience that I have selected the best men that I could find, according to reliable information I had at hand. But even the wisest and most virtuous of men may make mistakes. No matter how lofty his ideals of justice, no matter how pure and unsullied his motives, or how noble his heart, it is not impossible that a judge may commit a grievous error. In such a case, it is not only the right but also the duty of the Chief Executive to disagree with him publicly. When, a few days ago, I criticized a judicial decision which I thought was already final, and publicly so explained it, I was denounced by some people for encroaching upon the independence of the judiciary and violating the principle of the separation of powers. It has been said, that by publicly criticizing a decision of our courts, I undermined the confidence of our people in the judiciary; and have incited the people to take justice in their own hands.

Strange as it may seem, some of my critics, indeed, many of my critics, belong to the legal profession and should therefore, know enough of political science and constitutional law as not to exhibit such a lack of understanding of the theory of separation of powers and the meaning of the independence of the judiciary. I have noted, however, with great satisfaction that not a single word has been uttered by these self-appointed guardians of judicial independence against the position I have taken in that case—that fundamental justice had been subordinated to technicalities.

It is contended, then, that judicial decisions may not be criticized by private citizens, or that while private citizens may have such a right, the Chief Executive should be denied it?

It will be found that the right of the public to criticize judicial decisions has been recognized by some of the best judges in the world. It was the English Lord Chancellor Parker who said a long time ago: “Let all people be at liberty to know that I found my judgment upon; that, so when I have given it in any cause, others may be at liberty to judge me.”

The late Chief Justice W.H. Taft, when a United States circuit judge, wrote:

“The opportunity freely and publicly to criticize judicial action is of vastly more importance to the body politic than the immunity of courts and judges from unjust aspersions and attack. Nothing tends more to render judges careful in their decisions and anxiously solicitous to do exact justice than the consciousness that every act of theirs is to be subjected to intelligent scrutiny and candid criticism of their fellowmen. Such criticism is beneficial in proportion as it is fair, dispassionate, discriminating, and based on knowledge of sound legal principles. The comments made by learned text writers and the acute editors of the various law reviews upon judicial decisions are, therefore, highly useful. Such critics constitute more or less impartial tribunals of professional opinion before which each judgment is made to stand or fall on its merits, and thus exert a strong influence to secure uniformity of decision. But nonprofessional criticism also is by no means without its good uses, even if accomplished, as it often is, by a direct attack upon the judicial fairness and motives of the occupants of the bench; for if the law is but the essence of common sense, the protest of many average men may evidence a defect in a judicial conclusion, though based on the nicest legal reasoning and profoundest learning. The two important elements of moral character in a judge are an earnest desire to reach a just conclusion and courage to enforce it. Insofar as fear of public comment does not affect the courage of a judge, but only spurs him on to search his conscience and to reach the result which approves itself to his inmost heart, such comment serves a useful purpose. There are few men, whether they are judges for life or for a shorter term, who do not prefer to earn and hold the respect of all, and who cannot be reached and made to pause and deliberate by hostile public criticism. In the case of judges having a life tenure, indeed, their very independence makes the right freely to comment on their decisions of greater importance, because it is the only practical and available instrument in the hands of a free people to keep such judges alive to the reasonable demands of those they serve.

“On the other hand, the danger of destroying the proper influence of judicial decisions by creating unfounded prejudices against the courts justified and requires that unjust attacks shall be met and answered. Courts must ultimately rest their defense upon the inherent strength of the opinions they deliver as the ground for their conclusions and must trust to the calm and deliberate judgment of all the people as their best vindication.”

President Theodore Roosevelt, in one of his annual messages to Congress, among other things said:

“It may be the highest duty of a judge at any given moment to disregard, not merely the wishes of individuals of great political or financial power, but the overwhelming tide of public sentiment; and the judge who does thus disregard public sentiment when it is wrong, who brushes aside the plea of any special interest when the pleading is not founded on righteousness performs the highest service to the country. Such a judge is deserving of all honor; and all honor cannot be paid to the wise and fearless judge if we permit the growth of an absurd convention which would forbid any criticism of the judge of another type, who shows himself timid in the presence of arrogant disorder, or who on insufficient grounds grants an injunction that does grave injustice, or who in his capacity as a construer, and, therefore, in part a maker, of law, in flagrant fashion thwarts the cause of decent government. The judge has a power over which no reviews can be exercised; he himself sits in review upon the acts of both the executive and legislative

branches of the Government; save in the most extraordinary cases he is amenable only at the bar of public opinion; and it is unwise to maintain that public opinion in reference to a man with such power shall neither be expressed nor led.”

As regards the right of the Chief Executive to criticize court decisions, American history records that from the early days of the Government of the United States, there have been Presidents who have disagreed with and criticized decisions of the Supreme Court. President Jefferson is acknowledged as one of the greatest apostles of democracy while Marshall is known as the greatest Chief Justice of America. President Lincoln was practically elected upon the issue of his disagreement with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the famous Dred Scott case. Indeed, President Lincoln went to the extent of charging Chief Justice Taney, who wrote the opinion for the majority, with having been influenced in his decision by his pro-slave views and he further said that the “decision was in part based on assuming historical facts which were not really true.” President Jackson refused to enforce a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States and the late President Theodore Roosevelt was so exasperated by judicial frustration of measures enacted in the public interest that he advocated the recall of judicial decisions.

The most recent case of an American Chief Executive criticizing the Supreme Court of the United States is that of the present incumbent. In the face of several decisions promulgated by the Supreme Court nullifying important legislation designed to protect the interests of the laboring class as well as to promote the general well-being of the large mass of the suffering public dependent upon agriculture, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, personally and through the entire administration, had to wage a tremendous campaign against the attitude of the Court in steadfastly voting down such legislation. Immediately after the rendition by the Supreme Court of its decision invalidating the National Recovery Act—the case of *Schechter Poultry Corporation versus the United States*—the President, in a press conference (just as it happened in my case), that attracted wide attention went to the extent of characterizing the Court’s interpretation of the commerce clause of the Constitution as dating back to the “horse and buggy” days of American history. Because of these forceful and unwavering attacks, which in time gained the support of a large sector of the American press, the Supreme Court was at last forced to revise its views on these vital social questions, so that the Court in March and April of this year promulgated decisions which in effect reversed its previous stand on much of the social legislation in which the administration was deeply interested, notably the decision sustaining the validity of the Wagner Labor Act. Here is a case where the opinion of the Chief Executive, backed up by public demand, exerted a wholesome effect upon the Court, and the democratic and sober people of America found no ground for alleging an encroachment upon the independence of the judiciary or the violation of the doctrine of the separation of powers. Indeed, one justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, recognizing that the majority of the Court was at variance with the administration on important social and economic questions, resigned shortly thereafter—he being one of those who disagreed with the President—and in this way the President was given the opportunity to constitute a majority in the Court, that would uphold the policies of the administration. In one recorded case, another justice disavowed the view taken by him in a former case, saved a minimum wage law from invalidity, and thereby permitted the Supreme Court of the United States to give an interpretation of the law in the light of contemporary economic and social forces, as advocated by President Roosevelt. What would our lawyers say if any of the incidents above related were to occur here? That alas! democracy is gone, the temple of justice profaned! After such a cry, one cannot but wonder how ignorance can be so rampant!

The opposition to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Court reform plan was due, not to his criticism of the Supreme Court, but to the belief sustained by his opponents that he was attempting to effect a constitutional change by an unconstitutional method. And the President’s case was further weakened when Justice Van Devanter resigned, for this resignation made it unnecessary, in the opinion of many, to adopt the reforms which President Roosevelt so strongly advocated.

From what has been said, you will see that there are ample precedents with which I could justify myself for criticizing a judicial decision. But what I want to say frankly that, even if I did not have any such precedents to follow, I would still not be silent in the face of what in my conscience I might consider a wrong decision or an act of injustice. For, even assuming that, under the theory of separation of powers and the postulate of judicial independence, the Chief Executive may in no case utter a word in connection with the acts of the other branches of the Government, I would still interpret my oath to “do justice to every man” as imposing upon me the duty not only to do justice in cases where the decision rests with the Executive, but also to see that the other branches of the Government do not commit acts of injustice to any man.

This is not the first time that I have criticized a judge for doing what, in my opinion is wrong. When a judge of the Courts of First Instance, on technical grounds, absolved a man who caused the death of his servant—an old woman—by inflicting upon her cruel punishment all night long, I denounced the judge on the floor of the Senate and succeeded later in getting him out of the service. It will also be recalled that I have dismissed a judge from office, despite the fact that the Supreme Court only recommended that he be allowed to resign, when I found out that said recommendation was predicated upon the findings of the Supreme Court that he was guilty of the charges preferred against him, including acts of abuse in the treatment of litigants and witnesses, especially the poor and the ignorant.

It has been said that with my criticism of the decision in the Barredo case, I have embarrassed the members of the Supreme Court, for if they should reverse the decision of the lower courts, they would be considered as a mere “appendix of the Chief Executive,” and if they should uphold the former decision, they would be accused of favoring the rich as against the poor.

I have already stated that when I was led on the subject through a question propounded by a press representative, I was unaware of the fact that the case was still sub judice, so I need not repeat the statement now. But I have no hesitancy in saying that, while I wish I had not expressed any opinion on this matter, yet having done so, I am not in the least fearful that the Supreme Court will not render the decision that it would have rendered had I kept my peace on the subject. I have appointed every man on the Supreme Bench, from the Chief Justice to the junior member, Justice Conception. I have reappointed those who were already occupying their positions at the time, not because they were already there, but because I would have chosen them just the same even if I were then organizing for the first time the highest tribunal of the land. And I appointed Justices Laurel and Conception, not only because the Secretary of Justice had recommended them to me, and because the Chief Justice and the other members of the Court had expressed their approval of their selection, but because I knew them personally and I was certain in my own conscience that I was making the best possible choice.

May I say, in passing, that our Chief Justice typifies in his own person the best that there is or has ever been in the judiciary, whether in the Philippines or in any other country. No Chief Justice or any court anywhere in the world can by comparison tower above the Chief Justice who graces the Supreme Bench of our country. His knowledge of the law is acknowledged by all and his integrity is recognized throughout the breadth and length of our land. But I can say more: having known him intimately since our student days, no more fearless man has ever come from the hand of God than Chief Justice Avanceña when passing judgment upon any question before his Court. And the members of that Court are worthy associates of their Chief. I am, therefore, positive that everyone of them will consider the Barredo case with complete detachment from the rumpus that has been created, and will render their verdict as if I or anybody else had said nothing about it. And I also know that the Filipino people will accept their decision as an expression of their fearless conviction.

Not I, but those who have expressed the fear that the Supreme Court might be embarrassed by my declaration, show very little faith in the independence of our judiciary.

Let me tell the lawyers of the Philippines that if they are interested in upholding the prestige of the Philippine judiciary, it is not by protesting against any publicly uttered criticism of the bench that they can accomplish this worthy end. It is by helping the courts to ascertain the facts and to properly apply the law in cases in which they intervene. It is with the help of lawyers who love justice more than fees, rather than of lawyers who would feign resentment against any attack upon the judiciary however justified, that the judiciary may attain the highest standards and “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.”

To those who fear that a public denunciation by the Executive, of wrong doing on the part of the judges, may have the effect of encouraging the people to acts of violence or to take justice in their own hands, especially when the masses of the people are the victims, or any one of them I say: Nothing will give our people greater confidence in their Government and in their public officials—whether of the executive, the legislative or the judicial departments—than the willingness of each department to watch each other and denounce each other’s mistakes or wrongdoings before the bar of public opinion.

The independence of the three branches of the Government from each other and the separation of their powers are intended precisely for the protection of the people from any concerted action which these departments may undertake to deprive or deny the people of their rights and liberties. It is the duty of every branch of the Government not only to perform those functions which, under the Constitution, are within its own province, but also to check each other from abusing its constitutional powers.

My administration is committed, by its preelection platform, to ameliorate the lot of the common man. The Constitution of the Philippines imposes upon this Government the inescapable duty of promoting social justice. As the head of this Government, it is my duty to exert my influence to secure the cooperation of every branch of the Government to redeem our pledges and, above all, to carry into effect the mandate of the Constitution. Were I to keep silent in the face of what I consider a disregard of rights vouchsafed by the Constitution and the laws, not only would I be recreant to my duty but also the people would lose faith in their Government. This must not and shall not happen, if I can help it.

I come from the masses. My ancestors were of the poor class. I am not afraid nor ashamed to confess that my heart beats in unison with the hearts of the needy and for them. Justice shall be done to the poor and the humble in this country so long as I am the President. I am determined to fight for the rights of everyone, rich and poor alike, but more particularly for those who are unable to pay handsomely for expensive lawyers. And let it be known that I shall use all the powers of my office to win this fight. But even if I should fail now, victory would only be a question of time, for justice always will triumph, "God's justice, tardy though it prove perchance, rests never on the track until it reaches its destination."

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Occasion of the Graduation of Filipino Air Pilots, October 30, 1937

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Occasion of the Graduation of Filipino Air Pilots**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, Rizal, October 30, 1937]

To stand alone as a free nation, we must be self-reliant and capable of self-defense. We must be self-sufficient, insofar as this term implies a balance of earning power against necessary expenditure. We must be prepared to assure the progressive education and training of our less favored classes, and to raise their standard of living to a level compatible with other countries, and, finally, we must develop our complete resources to the continuous benefit of all our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This date is one of real significance to the Philippine Islands, Four Filipinos, trained exclusively in the use of flying facilities, under the exacting standards prescribed by their American Air Corps instructors, are graduating today as military pilots. To each of these young men I offer my sincere congratulations. By studying diligently, and by surmounting the difficult tests, placed before them, they have immeasurably increased their capacity for service to the Army, and their value to the Commonwealth.

It is true that we have had earlier Filipino pilots. In our Army today are two who -successfully completed the course in military flying in the United States; but today's graduation is significant in that it completes the first full cycle of training in our own Flying School, and so marks a definite progressive step in the development of the Philippine Army. More than this, today's graduation provides additional evidence that we, as a nation, may become increasingly self-dependent in all those things necessary to our own future existence, if we are imbued with the same determination and energy that have been responsible for the accomplishments we are today celebrating.

Only a little over two years ago this school was nothing but a vision in the minds of a few forward-looking men in our Government.

Contemplation of the tasks necessary to translate that dream into the reality of today was enough to appall any one except those of stout heart and unswerving devotion to an ideal. To how from a rough hillside a suitable flying field, to procure and erect the required facilities, to select and train the necessary skilled crews for the field's maintenance, operation and administration, and finally to organize professional skill, student bodies, and material assets into a successful instructional institution, were problems that stood squarely in the path. The heads of the former Constabulary organization who conceived this plan and who first recommended it to the legislature, their successors in the Philippine Army who have devoted their energies towards ensuring its progress, and the members of the legislative body who have provided the essential authorization and funds, are all deserving of our admiration. Without them the and funds, are all deserving original conception would have remained only an unfulfilled dream.

In an equally direct fashion we are indebted to an officer of the American Army, Lieutenant William Lee of the Air Corps. Since the very beginning of this plan he has served as its immediate directing head. He has been responsible for all its details of organization, of procurement, of selection of students, and of their subsequent training. To his zeal, his good judgment and his professional skill, we shall always be obligated for the assurance which we now have that hereafter Filipino pilots can normally be trained within Filipino territory and with Filipino facilities.

Happily, this officer continues to serve in his important position, a circumstance that is cause indeed for self-congratulation by the Air Corps and by all the Philippine Army.

The work and accomplishments of the devoted group responsible for this brilliant achievement stand as an example for emulation by our whole people. In the modern world national security demands a highly trained and suitably equipped air force. Realizing this, these men took to themselves the task, of providing it. Refusing to be turned aside by the knowledge of certain obstacles in their path, by the magnitude of unfamiliar tasks, or by the doleful prophecies of doubting critics, they applied themselves steadfastly and without stint to the work at hand. The material progress they have achieved, as evident on this field before our eyes, is no greater promise of their final complete success than are the four pilots who are today the first graduates of the school.

I sincerely wish that every Filipino in every walk of life could trace this project from its first unpromising beginnings to its present state of demonstrated efficiency. It is typical of the comprehensive achievements of the Philippine Army throughout the archipelago. Within the past year training stations have been built in almost one hundred separate localities. Already one class of trainees has finished its course of instruction, and within a very few weeks another will graduate. Details of organization, of supply and of administration have been thoughtfully provided for, and our army is rapidly taking form as an agency equipped to provide for future Philippine security.

In every line of human endeavor and in every phase of national existence we have equally important problems to solve, similar difficulties to overcome. To stand alone as a free nation, we must be self-reliant and capable of self-defense. We must be self-sufficient, insofar as this term implies a balance of earning power against necessary expenditure. We must be prepared to assure the progressive necessary education and training of our less favored classes, and to raise their standard of living to a level compatible with other countries, and, finally, we must develop our complete resources to the continuous benefit of all our people. Again and again I have expressed my confidence in the capacity of the Filipino character to meet and overcome these tests. In this airfield we have a living monument to patriotism, determination, enthusiasm, logical thought, and devotion to duty. These are the racial qualifications that will bring us success in all the national problems with which we are faced, or which we may have to face in the future.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the San Juan de Letran Alumni Annual Banquet, November 7, 1937

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the San Juan de Letran Alumni Annual Banquet**

[Delivered at the San Juan de Letran College, November 7, 1937]

SEPARATION OF POWERS, FRANCO HYMN, AND NATIONAL LANGUAGE

The Executive carries the executive power with him wherever he goes and at all times; he cannot dissociate himself from his official position.

I never do a thing not knowing whether I am doing right or wrong, and when I do wrong, I have the courage of admitting it.

In order to be a good Filipino one must love and do everything that will strengthen the Philippines and insure its independence and tranquility.

Liberty consists in exercising a right, and as there is no right without a corresponding duty, the exercise of liberty must be limited.

What makes a government stable is the existence of a responsible majority and a minority party which was not born to be in the minority but which happens to have been defeated in the last election.

Political parties must have only constructive aims; they must not be based on a negative ideal they must be founded on an affirmative, a positive idea.

The desire to imitate everything alien without knowing whether that which we are trying to imitate is good or bad, is due to an evil—to the lack of a real national soul.

A national soul cannot exist where there is not a common language.

The first duty of the children is to respect their parents.

PROFESSORS, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI OF LETRAN: I shall not speak to you on this occasion of the great services rendered by the College of San Juan de Letran to the Philippine people. The praises of this college have been sung by poets and authors and I have also mentioned them in speeches I made on occasions like the present one.

I shall prove to you that the Rector was quite correct when he said that I am an outspoken man, because I shall speak to you frankly, although the Rector may not like what I am going to say.

Gentlemen: I did not come to this gathering as President of the Philippines; I came to this gathering as an alumnus of Letran. (Applause) But the President of the Philippines cannot dissociate himself from the alumnus of Letran while he is President of the Philippines.

It is not true that the executive Power is the greatest and the judicial power the weakest. I hope my colleague, Mr. Vera, will pardon me if I say so. In a democratic form of Government, the three powers are equal. If any of them is more powerful than the others, I would say that it is the judicial power, because the members of the judiciary hold office for life, and because that power can if it wishes, place itself above the people, in spite of the theory that the people are sovereign where there is a government. I say that when judicial power is powerful, it can even place itself above the people because it can then render decisions that run counter to public opinion. And there is no way of counteracting or annulling its decisions. The executive power and the legislative power, on the other hand, are at all times subject to the rules and dominion of the people, because they do not hold office for life. Hence, if any of them is really more powerful than the others, it must be the judicial power. But they say, and it is actually so in practice, that the executive power is the greatest because it is vested in only one person. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is not the Supreme Court. The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court are not the Supreme Court. They have to function as Supreme Court in order to be able to exercise the judicial power. Chief Justice Avanceña cannot exercise that power now. I could beat him up now without being guilty of contempt of court. (Laughter and Applause) At this moment, Chief Justice Avanceña is exactly like any other citizen. The same is true of the members of the legislative power. None of them represents the legislative power. Speaker Montilla is not the legislative power; nor are the members of the National Assembly the legislative power. It is the National Assembly itself. When our legislators are outside the Assembly, the same thing applies to them that I said with reference to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. If I should beat them up, that would be all there would be to it. (Laughter) The Executive, on the contrary, carries the executive power with him wherever he goes and at all times; he cannot dissociate himself from his official position. For this reason I cannot, as President of the Philippines, ignore acts committed in my presence that should not be committed.

That Franco Hymn should not have been played here. The Franco Government is still unrecognized. The United States Congress has enacted a neutrality law and it is my duty to enforce that law in this country. I would not have said what I have said, and would have ignored this matter, if the Franco rebellion were still in its initial stage; but now that it seems to be winning, there is so much more reason for protesting, as I now protest, against such an act. Let no one say that I yield when a cause is about to triumph. What has happened has been a great mistake and a lack of consideration for the President of the Philippines.

All colleges in the Philippines are now, under the Constitution, subject to supervision by the State. No college can obtain government recognition unless it abides by the mandates of the Constitution. The Dominican Fathers know very well the heart of Manuel L. Quezon; the Dominicans know very well how I respect them. But the President of the Philippines cannot make exceptions in favor of any one.

I rose to my feet when they played the old Spanish anthem, that old national anthem which represents to us a historical remembrance and which represents to the Filipinos the ties of culture and affection that bound us to Spain; but I cannot recognize here anything referring to General Franco, regardless of my personal opinion of him and of the cause which he represents, nor can I express any opinion while I am President. And I am that at the present moment, gentlemen. (Laughter and Applause)

I have considered it necessary to say this because it was my duty to say it.

Gentlemen, it gives me the most intimate satisfaction to have the Master-General of the Dominican Order present here. I consider it happy not only for the College but also for His Reverence, that he has honored this Alumni Day with his presence, because it enables him to see with his own eyes what his Order has wrought. I believe that the Very Reverend Master-General of the Order of Predicants has reasons to be not only satisfied but also proud of his Order in the Philippines.

I have noticed that all the speakers who preceded me are poets. The Master-General has read a poem to us, the Rector of Santo Tomas has pronounced a poem in prose, and there is nothing to be said about Vera and Perfecto. They have given us an exhibition of literature. It would have been necessary for me to get a dictionary if I had been interested in understanding everything they said.

I have never been a lover of literature; but this afternoon, hearing Vera and Perfecto, I realized that Literature has its practical advantages. When I heard them both use the word remanso (dullness), I felt refreshed. Dullness this afternoon, and at Letran!

Do you know why I protested against that demonstration in favor of Franco? I did not do it only as President of the Philippines; but I did it as a Filipino who loves Spain. I do not know if there is any Spaniard who feels more deeply than I when I contemplate the present plight of Spain. I dare affirm that there is not any, for the simple reason that the Spaniards are all divided into two camps. Those belonging to one camp would like to see those in the other perish. Franco's men will tomorrow kill all men who are with the Popular Front and those of the Popular Front will kill all Franco partisans. I do not wish death to either Franco's men nor to those of the popular front. What I desire to see is a Spain redeemed and united by the love of all Spaniards. I know neither a red Spain nor a green or white Spain. I know only one Spain; the Spain which spilled blood on all the continents in order to bequeath to them her genius and culture, the Spain which came to the Philippines and lived with us for over three hundred years.

The Spaniards in the Philippines were also divided; they represented different political and economic ideologies. But we are losing time in making distinctions between the Spaniards who were good and the Spaniards who were bad. The human heart is noble and rises above all that. The only recollection that remains of Spain in the Philippines is that of the blessing she left and the services she rendered here. (Applause)

I protest against the campaign now being carried on by the Spaniards, with the Philippines as a theater of operations. Here no one is fighting. Why should they trouble us? We are not interested in the questions at issue in Spain. We must not be interested in them. The Filipinos maintain that every nation has the right to govern itself, and they should be the very last to attempt to tell the Spaniards how they should govern themselves. We must not be compelled to give an opinion on the matter. We must remember that the right to govern oneself carries with it the right to misgovern oneself. That is true of countries as well as of men. When God gave man that liberty which differentiates him from the beasts, he gave him the right to use that liberty not only to go to Heaven but also to go to hell. Is there any human being whose love can be compared with God's love for His creatures? Nevertheless God, in His infinite wisdom, and without ceasing to be merciful, upon giving man reason to discern, also gave him liberty to act as he saw fits. If man acts righteously, he will gain Heaven; if he does wrong, he will go to hell. You must not forget that the right to govern carries with it the right to misgovern. The Spaniards have the right to govern themselves as they please; it rests with them what government they shall have. That is their business. Why should we meddle with that? Why? Do you believe I would like to see foreigners meddle in our affairs? I have never liked it.

Gentlemen, I am not a hypocrite; I am not one of those who say: "Do as I say and not as I do." When I condemn some, I condemn others, too. But I do not condemn, I am not irresponsible. I never do a thing not knowing whether I am doing right or wrong, and when I do wrong, I have the courage of admitting it. What the Spaniards, especially the religious, and all priests should do in the Philippines, is to pray for peace in Spain. Do you know that it is a great satisfaction to me to be able, after receiving lessons from the priests, to give them lessons, as I am now doing, with the same absolute power with which they used to impart them? When I was a student and wanted to discuss anything with a priest, I was very liable to get a box on the ear. But it was I who commands now.

That is the Spain we desire. That is the Spain for which we must pray and which we must ask God to enlighten and save. Spain deserves a better fate.

I was in Mexico recently, I know what some silly fools here have said that I was insulted in Mexico because President Cardenas left and would not receive me. What I am going to say now I shall say not to reply to those stupidities which merely show the imbecility of those fools, but to illustrate the subject which I am going to discuss.

I did not go to Mexico as President of the Philippines, and I made statement to that effect. I sent word to the ambassador of Cuba that I was coming as a tourist. I sent word to the ambassador of Cuba that I was coming as a tourist. When I am in the Philippines, I am President at all times; but when I am abroad, that is no longer the case. I continue being president as regards the Philippines; but in my relations with foreign countries I can drop my official capacity when I please.

I sent word to the Cuban ambassador that I was coming as a tourist and for that reason did not desire to be received with the honors due me as head of a state, I said the same thing to the Secretary of State. However, when I arrived at the Mexican frontier, I found the Mexican people waiting for me and with them a military detachment ready to receive me with the honors due me as President of the Philippines. Military honors bother me; but what touched me deeply was the honors paid me by the people of Mexico. I had never been in Mexico before; but whenever I came to a small town I saw the people cheering me. I looked out of the window of the presidential car and all shouted "Viva Quezon." The same as here, "paris din ng ginagawa natin dito."

Of course, the presidential car was there to receive me. That presidential car cost the Mexican Government \$500,000, or P1,000,000. Just think of it! If I bought a presidential car worth P20,000, those of the Popular Front would murder me!

We went on to Mexico, and at all stations there were the same cheers, the same acclamation. We arrived in the City of Mexico in a tremendous rain. There was the whole cabinet, an army escort, the ambassador, of course, and the people of Mexico, acclaiming me. They gave me a national fiesta on the bank of the river to which we were conveyed in pagodas. How that reminded me of the Philippines. The pagodas were exactly like those we are using here. Even the Mexican music resembles Philippine music. At that national fiesta, at which the entire diplomatic corps was present, a Mexican delivered an address on the relations between the Philippines and Mexico.

Gentlemen, I have read many histories of our country and of the relations between Mexico and the Philippines; but I learned more from the address of that gentlemen than from anything I have ever read. That gentleman knew more about the relations between Mexico and the Philippines than any Filipino, dead or alive. And he spoke of the Philippines as if he had been here in the Philippines during the years when our country was governed from Mexico.

The other day I requested from the National Library historical data on the cedula. They brought me the Spanish Government appropriations. Do you know what I discovered? Something incredible! There was a time when the Mexican government contributed one million pesos towards the maintenance of the Government of the Philippines. I did not know that.

Why did they receive me thus in Mexico? Why did the Mexican people cheer me wherever I went? I do not believe it was all for Manuel L. Quezon. True, they know me by name. In all Latin-American countries, the persons who read about what is going on in other countries know my name. they consider me there as champion of Philippine liberty. They received me thus because I am a Filipino. The Latin-American people believe and feel that we Filipinos form part of that vast family, the children of Spain. Thus, although Spain ceased to govern those countries many years ago and although other nation is sovereign in the Philippines, those Latin-American peoples feel themselves as brothers to the people of the Philippines. It is the Spanish language which still binds us to those peoples, and the Spanish language will bind us to those people eternally if we have the wisdom and patriotism of preserving it. (Applause)

Note the phrase I have used: "the patriotism of preserving it." I said "patriotism of preserving it," not because I consider that one has to love Spain in order to be a good Filipino; but because in order to be a good Filipino one must love and do everything that will strengthen the Philippines and insure its independence and tranquillity. The Spanish language will do much in that sense for the Philippine people. So long as we speak Spanish, the Latin-American republics, whose influence in the world is growing steadily, will be interested in our future. And, although I do not believe that we should expect those republics to fight for us some day, yet the fact that those republics feel bound to us by cultural and spiritual ties is likely to curb to some extent any attempt to wrong the Philippine people. We must always bear in mind that in spite of the shameless manner in which the international law is now being violated, the offenders still try to cover those violations of international law with protestations of good intentions and moral justifications. It will, for these reasons, always be worth a great deal to the Philippines to preserve the Spanish language. And I am not only as determined as ever to give my full support to the preservation of that language in the Philippines; but also I am thinking of sending cultural missions to the Latin-American countries in order that this tie, this bond which is at present purely ideal or spiritual but which seems to unite us, may find expression in a more practical manner, by the exchange of Filipino professors who shall be worthy exponents of our culture and civilization, with Latin-American professors.

I therefore congratulate Enrique Carrion, my old companion and fellow-student upon his grand idea of donating that cup for the preservation of the Spanish language. I know that Enrique Carrion is a Spaniard and Filipino. He loves Spain and loves the Philippines. I am sure that if his heart were ever opened, his love for one nation would be found to be as great as that for the other. There is no nook in Carrion's heart where his love for Spain or his love for the Philippines rules exclusively, because love for Spain and love for the Philippines are to be found everywhere in his heart. (Applause)

Gentlemen, do not believe that by advocating the preservation of the Spanish language I mean to say that we shall drop English. No; English is a practical necessity for us. It is the language by which we can make ourselves best understood by the Anglo-Saxon countries; it is the language which is helping us, and will help us, to better understand democratic principles and practices.

I do not know if the Spaniards will like this; but I do not care to keep back what I feel like saying. I am going to tell a story, which concerns the Master-General of the Dominicans. In 1926 I went with Osmeña to Paris and on board we met an Argentine. We immediately became friends. As he spoke French very well and neither Sergio nor I know that language, we not only continued our friendly relations but he also served as a guide to us. The French chauffeurs are the worst drivers in the world because they always go at top speed and do not mind either the police or the traffic regulations—they go at top speed all the time. One afternoon we were going along the Avenue de l'Opera and the chauffeur was going at top speed, as usual. A policeman stopped him. The chauffeur stuck his head out of the window and said something to the policeman that I did not understand. The Argentine then turned to us and said; "That is how the Latin people are; there is true liberty here." We did not say anything. When we arrived at the hotel (I did not know that Sergio had noticed that), he said to me: "Did you see what the people here and in the Latin countries understand by liberty?"

The Latin people are we. Yes, we Filipinos are that. We believe here that liberty consists in doing as one pleases. Liberty consists in exercising a right, and as there is no right without a corresponding duty, the exercise of liberty must be limited. Liberty does not consist in punching a man in the face whenever one feels like it.

I am going to speak to you of the French Revolution. You know that the motto of the French Revolution was Liberté, egalite et fraternity. (Applause) With the French Revolution, the Marseillaise was born. Do you know that it impressed me deeply when the General of the Dominicans was first honored with the Marseillaise and was then accorded the honors of the Marseillaise? That shows ability to forget the past and accept what is good in the present. The Marseillaise used to mean "off with the friars' head." The most remarkable thing about it, however, is that not only the heads of friars fell but also those of Danton, Robespierre and others who were great personages of the French Revolution. All were decapitated. Now the Marseillaise represents a stable government, a government that loves and respects the General of the Dominicans, a government that accords protection and consideration.

If property were not greatly divided in France; if the French were not in their majority small landowners and thrifty people, France might be as Spain is to-day. Look at the governments in France; they are constantly falling. The deputies of party A get together with the deputies and of party B, and the government falls. Another government is formed, and that falls, too. But in spite of all, the French nation remains united because its citizens are steady, own property, and are endowed with a sense of responsibility. But the government is nothing.

We Filipinos, instead of learning democratic principles and practices from the countries which have been applying them successfully so far, are learning quite the contrary. In England there are only two parties. The same is true in America. What makes a government stable is the existence of a responsible majority and a minority party which was not born to be in the minority but which happens to have been defeated in the last election. In the Philippines we have not anything of the sort. There are some persons here who get up and say: "I want to be with the opposition; I am going to organize an opposition party." No part must be organized for the purpose of obstructing. Political parties must have only constructive aims; they must not be based on a negative idea; they must be founded on an affirmative, a positive idea. Here, when our people say they are going to organize the opposition, it means that they want to go against Quezon and his followers.

I have said that I am in favor of organizing opposition, that is, of the formation of another party, if those who are to compose that party do not agree with the principles, doctrines, and practices of the party in power. The other day some young men came to me and said: "Mr. President, we are of the opposition. If it is true that you encourage opposition, we may ask you to help us." "Why are you of the opposition?" I asked them. "Do you not approve of the present government, of the principles for which it stands?" "It is because I you said you desired that there should be opposition," they replied. "You are fools," I told them, "and I am not going to help you to be still bigger fools than you are." This is merely to illustrate how we Filipinos are.

We shall not drop English, because English can be of great help to us in so far as democratic ideas and practices are concerned. Thence we must continue Spanish and English. But I am going further; I tell you that I want neither Spanish nor English as the language of our Government. The Philippines must have a language of her own, a language based on one of the vernacular tongues. (Applause) I am speaking as President, as a Filipino, not as Letran alumnus.

Gentlemen, many of the difficulties or defects now existing here are due to the fact that we have not a common national language of our own. The desire to imitate everything alien without knowing whether that which we are trying to imitate is good or bad, is due to an evil—to the lack of a real national soul. A national soul cannot exist where there is not a common language. We shall never have any genuine national pride until we have a language of our own. We shall always have the sign of inferiority. Copying is all right; but we must copy only what is good, what is adaptable to our idiosyncrasy, and reject what is bad. I never realized how terrible the lack of a common language is until I became President. I am President of the Philippines; I am the personal representative of the Philippine nation, the Philippine people. But, when I travel through the provinces and talk to my people, I need an interpreter. Did you ever hear of anything more humiliating, more horrible than that? I am all right when I go to the Tagalog provinces, because I can speak to the people there in the vernacular, in Tagalog. But if I go to the Ilocos Sur, I am already a stranger in my own country! How can I tell the people what I think and feel when in order to do so I need an interpreter who, in the majority of cases, says what he wants to say and not what I have said? (Applause) That happens, because sometimes the interpreter, either because he has not understood me or because he cannot think of words in the vernacular expressing what I have said, says whatever occurs to him. How often have I not said to some one interpreting for me into Visayan or Bicol; "You are not saying what I have said?"

I am agreeable to having English continued in the schools and I am going to advocate that Spanish be continued, too. But I say that the time has come for us to have a national Philippine language. Until we have that, we shall not be a people.

I remember the time when the American imperialists said: "How can you have independence when you have no common language?" I replied: "It is not necessary to have a common language. In Switzerland, the Italian, the French and the German are spoken, and Switzerland is an independent nation." And we were well satisfied with our answer. And as those Americans were not educated in a college like that of the Dominicans, where they are so strong on the logic of Saint Augustine or Saint Thomas, they let us get away with that.

They have three languages in Switzerland. If the President of Switzerland chooses to speak in Italian, in French, or in German, everybody understands him. The Swiss, instead of having one language, have three. In the Philippines we have neither English, nor Spanish, nor Tagalog.

Several Filipino ladies who were traveling related to me the following incident: They were speaking English on board a ship before an American girl of about 14 years. Both were alumni of a college of the University of the Philippines. After the conversation, the American girl asked them this question, "Why don't you speak in your own language?" The American girl was right. Why did they converse in English, being Filipinas? They could not use the vernacular because one was an Ilocana and the other a Tagala.

We must, therefore, have a common national language, and we Letran alumni are losing time if we do not do something positive, if we limit our activity to making speeches which cannot be translated into practice. You men of Letran must acquire the merit of converting into reality the ideal of the Philippine people having a language of its own. The difficulty is that the Ilocanos want Ilocano to be the national language; the Tagalogs, Tagalog; the

Visayans, Visayan. And yet, those same Ilocanos who not want Tagalog, accept English as the national language! Have you ever seen anything inconceivable? A Filipino preferring a foreign language to a Philippine tongue? And at that only because Ilocano is not the tongue which has been made the National Language! What I have said of Ilocano I also say to Tagalog, Pampango, Visayan, Bicol, etc.

I am a Tagalog. If the men familiar with the advantages of the several Philippine tongue were to tell me that the vernacular tongue that we must adopt is Mangyan, I would be for Mangyan rather than for any other tongue. You know what I do not speak Spanish well; but I have spoken it from my infancy, the same as Tagalog. I did not speak Spanish or English to my children until they spoke Tagalog. Tagalog is the official language in my family, But I am ready to learn Ilocano, Visayan or any other vernacular tongue so long as we shall have a language that can be spoken by all.

Think of the difference between Japan and China. Why is Japan united? By the language. And why do those difficulties exist in North China? Also on account of the Language. And, why are we Filipinos united now? First, thanks to the Spaniards and then to the Americans.

Do you know, I often ask myself: What shall we do when the Americans are gone, when that stimulus to be united no longer exists? We shall have strife, such as that which existed when we were students here in Letran and when the Tagalogs used to fight with the Ilocanos, the Pampangos with Visayans, the Visayans with the Tagalogs, etc. I have seen that here, and not so long ago, either. I am not old yet, and I have seen the fights we had here. The language is going to save us because no one will remember that he is Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Pampango, Bicol, etc. They will all forget that difference.

There is another thing I will tell you. The majority of you are fathers of families. Gentlemen, the time has come to Filipinize the Filipinos. We have for many years been assimilating first with Spaniards and then with Americans. Let us assimilate ourselves with Filipinos, too, I don't know whether ours are Filipino or Spanish customs; but we have customs which I have seen since my boyhood that are magnificent. It makes no difference to me whether they came from Spain or from ancient Malaya. For instance, our family life. That must be preserved. Nowadays the children do not mind their parents. They treat them with contempt, especially those parents who have not been fortunate enough to go to college, I must tell you that I have never laid hands on any of my children, I have a daughter who is already 18 years of age, I have never spanked her. But I have disciplined them since they were small. If I had a boy who treated me with contempt, I would laugh at the Supreme Court and break his head for him. (Applause) I saw Gabriel La O applauding me. Gabriel heard me say to one son: "If I were your father, I would break your head."

Do not accept so-called modern methods from your children. The first duty of the children is to respect their parents. If they become insolent, apply the rod. I don't mean by that that parents should treat their children like beasts. That was a defect of our parents of yore. Parenthood does not imply lack of judgment. Even though the child be an imbecile, the father has no right to treat him badly. Discipline must be maintained in a proper manner.

You have heard me criticize the luxurious manner of living of our present-day youth. That is not the fault of the children; it is the fault of the parents. It is the parents who give them the money. I am telling fathers that the best way of showing a son that they love him is to compel him to suffer what the father has suffered; to make him work before he learns how to spend money. Let him learn to earn money, then let him spend it. It is the duty of the father to provide everything necessary for life, exclusive of luxuries. If the son wants luxuries, let him work, let him learn to earn money, and if he is unable to make a living, let him go to the devil. Don't let us permit our sons to sport a fine car or give a sumptuous dance. And we must demonstrate with facts what we tell them. Some parents hurt their own children by getting them accustomed to a life of luxury.

I have been preaching you a sermon and it is time for me to stop. I conclude by thanking you all for your attention and thanking the professors of this college for the interest which they have always shown in our youth. I congratulate the chairman upon the success of this banquet and I wish the General of the Dominicans a pleasant visit in the Philippines and hope that he will visit us again before he relinquishes his office. Many thanks to all. (Enthusiastic Applause)

From Messages of the Philippines, Vol. 3, Part I, pp. 156-171.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the abolition of Cedula Tax and National Defense, November 15, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

ABOLITION OF CEDULA TAX AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

[Delivered (in Tagalog) on the Second Anniversary of the Commonwealth, at the Luneta, Manila, November 15, 1937]

My Countrymen:

This is the second anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth Government, administered by the Filipino people, they being the ones who elected their Chief Executive. I am not going to tell you what has been accomplished by the Administration under my leadership from the time I was inducted into the office to which you have elevated me and from the day the National Assembly began its task of legislation. What I can say is this: That since that day we have done nothing that will not promote the interest of the nation.

Many of those who are coming to reside in our country now say that the Filipinos are capable of running their own government; there is not one remaining who does not believe that we are capable of managing our affairs. In the course of time, we shall see that the form of government we are establishing here is a kind of government that will help promote the peace of the world. Our Government is premised on the principles of equality and the protection of all, and the first thing that the Government is going to do is not to make the rich richer but to give the poor a chance to improve their condition.

It will be known throughout the Philippines today that we have abolished a certain legislation which has been the cause of bitter sufferings and hardships among the common people, much more to our mothers. Today we abolish the cedula tax. The younger generation who have been reared in an atmosphere of ease and comfort will not understand the real reason for the abolition of the cedula, but we who suffered during the Spanish régime and are still living now, still remember that our chief complaint arose from the payment of the cedula tax. One of the promises of our leaders of the Revolution was to abolish the cedula should they win. We triumphed against the Spaniards, but the cedula was not abolished; it was only decreased slightly. It should have been abolished long ago, but the plan was not carried out for want of a remedial substitute. Now we know where to get that substitute, and what the people will get today is the relief they will get from the abolition of the cedula.

I am not going to tell you where we are going to get the money as substitute for the money realized from the cedula tax, but we are abolishing this because this is a tax that is a burden to the poor. It is not just that the unemployed, that the individuals to whom the Government has not given any job be taxed. If they have no source of income and no work from which to get an income, they must not be compelled in justice to them to bear a burden like the cedula tax. This is not justice, and from the bottom of my heart I am happy to tell you that, by virtue of a legislative enactment, the National Assembly has abolished the cedula tax.

From now on, no tax shall be collected that will not be based on the ability of the tax-paying public to pay. Until now the poor are heavily taxed in our country. The rich may say that they are paying more taxes, because they are paying thousands of pesos in taxes sometimes, but I am prepared to agree with anybody who is paying this much that if he gave me the wealth from which he derives his income to pay his taxes to the government, I would pay taxes twice as much. What the rich pay for taxes are only taken from their surplus, but the poor get their money to

pay their taxes from their means of subsistence and the subsistence of their families. I do not mean to say that the poor should not pay any taxes. The sacred duty of the citizens is to support their government. What I mean to say is that the taxes that they should pay must be based on their ability to pay. For example, by the abolition of the cedula tax, do the poor people think they are not paying any taxes? No. Is it not true that if today a poor man buys cloth and orders a suit to be made, coming from Europe or America, he pays taxes based on the value of the clothes? That is why I say that the great portion of the collections realized from internal-revenue taxes comes from the poor although the rich also pay their taxes.

So that there will be equality between the rich and the poor in the payment of their taxes, I will ask the National Assembly to impose more taxes upon the wealthy class because they are in a position to pay. In this way, taxes will not be a burden to anybody and it would not be difficult for the Government to work out its problems.

The first act of the Commonwealth Government was to prepare for our national defense. Our national defense is not based upon the size of a big army that we are not in a position to establish, but upon the people. That is why we are training everybody in military implements so that we may be prepared to defend our country any time in case an aggressor nation tries to subjugate us. The Filipino people must be prepared now to defend themselves. The time has come when everybody must mutually cooperate, so that right and justice may be accorded to everybody, and especially the poor their rights, otherwise, they may use the guns to kill us instead of our enemies. What is necessary now and hereafter is to give every man his right to live, because the right to live is paramount to and above any other right. That is what is proper for our governors; for our municipal presidents. If this is what we are going to do, we shall have nothing to fear, and whatever may be our undertaking we shall move forward to prosperity and peace. God helps those who help themselves, and we will surely triumph.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Political ties binding the United States and the Philippines, November 15, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**POLITICAL TIES BINDING THE UNITED STATES AND
THE PHILIPPINES**

[Delivered on the Second Anniversary of the Commonwealth, at the
Luneta, Manila, November 15, 1937]

Your Excellency:

It is most gracious of you, Sir, to honor us with your presence at this celebration of the second anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth, a historical event which marks the beginning of the process by which the United States will finally relinquish its sovereignty over the Philippines.

In an age when defenseless or powerless nations are in constant dread of their very existence lest some powerful nation may attempt to subjugate them, America's voluntary withdrawal from a country already under its lawful domain, so rich in natural resources and so promising in material returns, stands as the beacon light pointing the way to distressed humanity out of the threatening universal disaster which that great advocate of national rights, Woodrow Wilson, appropriately called self-determination.

Here is the admirable example of two peoples thrown together by the hands of destiny and agreeing between themselves in goodwill and with best wishes for one another to sever their political union that each may go its own way as God has willed that every people should.

On behalf of my government and people, Sir, may I ask Your Excellency, to inform the President of the United States that on this day of our national rejoicing our first thought is of America and our grateful hearts go out to her in thanksgiving for her unfailing help, support and encouragement in our difficult task of nation building?

And may I also add that you, Sir, as the President's representative in the Philippines, have deservedly won our high esteem and respect for the generous contribution you are giving to this common enterprise which confronts as well your country and mine?

The army that has paraded before us, Sir, is not only the Philippine Army. It is also your army, not only because under the Independence Act the President of the United States may place it under your command for the defense of the American flag but also because the Filipino people will gladly do it in recognition of what you have done for us.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on signing Bill abolishing the Cedula Tax, November 15, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SIGNING BILL ABOLISHING THE CEDULA TAX

[Delivered before Members of the National Assembly, Malacañan
Palace, Manila, November 15, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I desire to congratulate you on the enactment of this bill, which I am about to sign, abolishing the cedula tax. This is a tax which has been borne by our poor people for centuries. It has caused untold hardships on those who earn hardly enough to make their living and it constituted one of the serious grievances of our people against the Spanish Government. The sentiment of the people is so strongly against this tax that when the Constitutional Convention convened for the purpose of drafting and approving the Constitution for the Commonwealth and for the Philippine Republic, there were members of that convention who attempted to prohibit the enactment of the law imposing the cedula tax, but the Constitutional Convention thought that the abolition of this tax was not a matter for constitutional provision and so it left it to the National Assembly to do it.

I am very glad that as soon as you saw your way clear to the enactment of this bill you have done so and I take pride in signing it on this day of the second anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth. I am sure our people will give due recognition to the services you have rendered them when you abolished this tax.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Filipino National Language, December 30, 1937

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

FILIPINO NATIONAL LANGUAGE

[Radiocast from Malacañan Palace, Manila, on Rizal Day,
December 30, 1937]

My Fellow-Citizens:

It affords me an indescribable satisfaction to be able to announce to you that on this the 41st anniversary of the martyrdom of the founder and greatest exponent of Philippine nationalism, I had the privilege of issuing, in pursuance of the mandate of the Constitution and of existing law, an Executive Order designating one of the native languages as the basis for the national language of the Filipino people. The Executive Order is as follows:

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 134

PROCLAIMING THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE OF THE PHILIPPINES
BASED ON THE "TAGALOG" LANGUAGE

Whereas, by virtue of the provisions of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred eighty-four enacted for the purpose of carrying out the constitutional mandate contained in section three, Article XIII, of the Constitution enjoining the adoption of a national language based upon one of the existing native tongues, the President of the Philippines, on January twelfth, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, appointed the following to constitute the Institute of National Language created under the said Act:

Jaime	C.	de	Veyra	(Samar-Leyte	Visayan),	Chairman.
Santiago		A.	Fonacier		(Ilocano),	member.
Santiago		A.	Fonacier		(Ilocano),	member.
Filemon		Sotto	(Cebu		Visayan),	member.
Casimiro		F.	Perfecto		(Bicol),	member.
Felix	S.	Salas	Rodriguez	(Panay	Visayan),	member.
Hadji		Butu		(Moro),		member.

Cecilio Lopez (Tagalog), member and Secretary.

Whereas, the Institute of National Language adopted on the ninth day of November, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, a resolution as follows:

“Whereas, the National Assembly, in accordance with constitutional mandate, passed Commonwealth Act No. 184 establishing an Institute of National Language;

“Whereas, the President of the Philippines, in accordance with sections 1 and 2 of said law, appointed on January 12, 1937, the members to compose the Institute who assumed their duties immediately after appointment;

“Whereas, in fulfillment of the purpose of evolving and adopting a common national language based on one of the existing native dialects, and complying with the conditions and proceedings to be observed by the Institute in the discharge of its duties, as set forth in section 5 of said law, the Institute has made studies of Philippine tongues in general;

“Whereas in the light of these studies the members of the Institute have come to the conclusion that among the Philippine languages, the Tagalog is the one that most nearly fulfills the requirements of Commonwealth Act No. 184;

“Whereas, the conclusion represents not only the conviction of the members of the Institute but also the opinion of Filipino scholars and patriots of divergent origin and varied education and tendencies who are unanimously in favor of the selection of Tagalog as the basis of the national language as it has been found to be used and accepted by the greatest number of Filipinos not to mention the categorical views expressed by local newspapers, publications, and individual writers; and

“Whereas, the constitutional mandate mentioned above may be carried out without detraction from the requirements of section 1, subsection 8 of the Ordinance appended to the Constitution which provides:

“ ‘The Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines shall establish and maintain an adequate system of public schools, primarily conducted in the English language’ ;

“Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Institute of National Language in harmony and in compliance with section 7 of Commonwealth Act No. 184, select as it hereby selects the Tagalog language to be used as the basis for the evolution and adoption of the national language of the Philippines;

“Be it further resolved, that the Institute of National Language recommend to His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, the adoption of Tagalog as the basis of the national language of the Philippines, and that such an adoption of the Philippine National Language shall not be understood as in any way affecting the requirement that the instruction in the public schools shall be primarily conducted in the English language.”

Now, therefore, I, Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, pursuant to the provisions of section seven of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred eighty-four, and upon the recommendation of the Institute of National Language set forth in the resolution above transcribed, do hereby approve the adoption of Tagalog as the basis of the national language of the Philippines, and hereby declare and proclaim the national language so based on the Tagalog dialect, as the national language of the Philippines.

This Order shall take effect two years from the date of its promulgation.

Done at the City of Manila, this thirtieth day of December, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, and of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, the third.

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

By the President:

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
Secretary of the Interior

Rizal, in his patriotic efforts to foster Philippine nationalism, put in the mouth of Simon, addressing Basilio, the following words: "Spanish will never be the language generally spoken in the country; the people will never speak it. Each people has its own way of thinking. You are trying hard to divest yourselves of your own personality as a people; you forget that as long as a people preserves its language, it retains a token of its liberty, just as a man retains his freedom so long as he preserves his own independence of thought. A language expresses the ideas and ideals of a people."

Hence, in deciding to adopt a national language culled from the different languages spoken in the Philippines and mainly from the Tagalog which was not only the native tongue of Rizal but also is the most developed of all the existing languages in our country, we are merely carrying into realization one of the ideals of our national hero as a means of consolidating and invigorating our national unity.

For over three hundred years that Spain exercised sovereignty over the Philippines, Spanish was the official language; nevertheless, when the United States took possession and control of these Islands, Spanish had not become the common language of our people. With the establishment of the American régime, English became the official language of our country; but despite the fact that English has been taught in all our public schools for more than a generation, it has not become the language of our people. Today there is not one language that is spoken and understood by all the Filipinos, nor even by a majority of them, which simply proves that while the teaching of a foreign language may be imposed upon a people, it can never replace the native tongue as a medium of national expression among the common masses. This is because, as Rizal asserted, the national thought takes its roots in a common language which develops and grows with the progress of the nation. We may borrow for a time the language of other peoples, but we cannot truly possess a national language except through the adoption, development and use of one of our own.

It is unnecessary for me to demonstrate how essential it is for our people to have one language that can be used by all in their daily intercourse. Such language cannot be either English or Spanish, except perhaps, if ever, only after many generations and at a very great cost. We cannot wait that long. We must as soon as possible be able to deal with one another directly using the same language. We need its power more completely to weld us into one strong nation. It will give inspiration and warmth to our popular movements and will accord to our nationality a new meaning to which we have never learned to give full and adequate expression. As President of the Philippines, many times I have felt the humiliation of having to address the people through an interpreter in those provinces of the Islands where either Ilocano, Visayan, Pampango or Bicol is the language used.

The fact that we are going to have our national language does not mean that we are to abandon in our schools the study or the use of the Spanish language, much less English which, under our Constitution, is the basis of primary instruction. Spanish will preserve for us our Latin culture and will be our point of contact with our former metropolis as well as with Latin America; English, the great language of democracy, will bind us forever to the people of the United States and place within our reach the wealth of knowledge treasured in this language.

There was a time when it seemed that it would be impossible for the Filipinos to agree that one of the native languages be chosen as the national language, but at last we have all realized that if we are willing to accept a foreign language as the official language of the Philippines, with more reason we should accept one of our own languages as the national language of our common country. Without giving undue importance to the role that a common language plays in the life of a people, we may point to the fact that in the Orient the one nation which has made the greatest progress and which has won a high place in the family of nations, is the only nation that has one common language—Japan. And every other nation which has attained the highest state of culture, solidarity and power, both on the American continent and in Europe, and even in Africa, is a nation that possesses a common national language.

Today, with the adoption of Tagalog as the basis for the national language of the Philippines, we have accomplished one of the most cherished dreams of Rizal.

In no better way could we have honored his sacred memory on this anniversary of his immolation to the cause of our free nationhood.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon announcing the creation of a National Language, December 30, 1937

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Manuel L. Quezon
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paglikha ng Pambansang Wika**

[Binigkas sa radyo sa Presidential Study, Palasyo ng Malacañan, noong ika-30 ng Disyembre 1937]

Si Rizal Hinggil sa Isang Wikang Pilipino

Mga Kababayan:

Nagdudulot sa akin ng di matingkalang kasiyahan na maipahayag ko sa inyo na ngayong ika-41 anibersaryo ng pagmamartir ng nagtatag at pinakadakilang tagapamansag ng nasyonalismong Pilipino, ay naging karangalan kong ilagda, bilang pag-alinsunod sa utos ng Konstitusyon at ng umiiral na batas, ang isang Kautusang Tagapagpaganap na nagtatalaga sa isa sa mga katutubong wika na maging batayan ng wikang pambansa ng bayang Pilipino. Ang Kautusang Tagapagpaganap ay gaya ng sumusunod:

(Kautusang Tagapagpaganap Blg. 134, na nagpapahayag na ang Tagalog ay siyang magiging batayan ng wikang pambansang Pilipino.)

Sa kanyang makabayang pagsisikap na maitaguyod ang nasyonalismong Pilipino ay inilagay ni Rizal sa bibig ni Simon, sa pakikipag-usap kay Basilio, ang sumusunod na kataga, “Ang Kastila ay hindi kailan man magiging wikang pangkalahatan ng bansa; ang baya’y hindi kailan man magsasalita nito. Bawa’t bayan ay may sariling wika gaya ng pagkakaroon niya ng sariling pag-iisip. Pinagpipilitan ninyong mabuti na hubdan ang sarili ng angking katauhan bilang isang bayan; nalilimutan ninyo na habang pinangangalagaan ng isang bayan ang kanyang wika ay taglay niya ang isang tanda ng kanyang kalayaan, gaya rin ng pagtataglay ng kalayaan ng isang tao habang pinangangalagaan niya ang kanyang sariling laya ng pag-iisip. Ang wika ay siyang nagpapahayag ng mga kaisipan at mithiin ng isang bayan.”

Kaya, sa pagpapasiyang mapagtibay ng isang wikang pambansa na pinili sa iba’t ibang wikang sinasalita sa Pilipinas at lalo na sa Tagalog na hindi lamang siyang katutubong, wika ni Rizal kundi siya ring pinakamaunlad sa lahat ng wikang umiiral sa bansa, ay isinasakatuparan lamang natin ang isa sa mga mithiin ng ating bayani bilang paraan ng pagbuo at pagpapalakas sa ating pagkakaisa.

Sa loob ng mahigit na tatlong daang taon ng kapangyarihan ng Espanya sa Pilipinas, ang Kastila ay siyang wikang opisyal, gayon man, nang mapasakamay at pamahalaan ng Estados Unidos ang Kapuluang ito, ang Kastila ay hindi naging wikang panlahat sa ating bayan. Sa pagkakatatag ng pamamahalang Amerikano, ang Ingles ay siyang naging wikang opisyal dito sa atin; nguni’t sa kabila ng pangyayaring ang Ingles ay itinaturo na sa lahat ng paaralang bayan natin sa loob ng mahigpit na isang henerasyon, ito’y hindi naging wika ng ating bayan. Sa kasalukuya’y walang isang wika na sinasalita at nauunawaan ng lahat ng Pilipino, ni ng nakararami sa kanila, bagay na nagpapatunay lamang na samantalang ang pagtuturo ng isang wikang dayuha’y maaaring ipag-utos sa isang bayan, hindi naman maaari kailan man na mapalitan ng wikang iyan ang katutubong wika bilang kasangkapan ng bansa sa nagpapahayag. Ang dahilan, wika nga ni Rizal, ay sapagka’t ang pag-iisip ng bansa ay nag-uugat sa isang wikang panlahat na umuunlad at sumisibol na kaalinsabay ng pagkasulong ng bansa. Maaari nating hiram sa loob ng isang panahon ang wika ng ibang bayan, nguni’t hindi tayo tunay na makapag-aangkin ng isang wikang pambansa maliban sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatibay, pagpapaunlad at paggamit ng isang wika na sariling atin.

Kalabisan na sa aking ilarawan pa kung gaano kahalaga sa ating bayan ang pagkakaroon ng isang wika na magagamit ng lahat sa kanilang pag-uusap araw-araw. Hindi maaaring Ingles o Kastila, maliban na lamang marahil, kung bagaman, kung makaraan na ang maraming henerasyon at sa napakalaking gugol. Hindi tayo makapaghihintay ng ganoon katagal. Dapat na sa lalong madaling panahon ay makapag-usap tayo nang tuwiran sa pamamagitan ng

iisang wika. Kailangan natin ang kanyang lakas upang lubusang mabigkis tayo sa iisang pagka-bansa na malakas at matibay. Makapagbibigay ito ng inspirasyon at sigla sa ating kilusang bayan at magdudulot sa ating pagka-bansa ng isang bagong kahulugan na hindi natin kailan man naipahayag nang sapat at lubusan. Bilang Pangulo ng Pilipinas, di miminsa't mamakalawang nadama ko ang malaking kahihyan na magsalita sa mga tao sa pamamagitan ng isang interprete doon sa mga lalawigan ng Kapuluan na ang wikang ginagamit ay Ilokano, o kaya'y Bisaya, Kapampangan o Bikol.

Ang pagkakaroon natin ng sariling wikang pambansa ay hindi nangangahulugang tatalikdan natin sa ating mga paaralan ang paggamit o pag-aaral ng wikang Kastila, lalo na ng Ingles, na sa ilalim ng ating Saligang-batas, ay siyang batayan ng ng pagtuturo sa paaralang primarya. Pangangalagaan ng wikang Kastila para sa atin ang ating kalinangang Latin at siya nating magiging kasangkapan sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa ating dating inang lunsod gayon din sa Amerika Latina; ang Ingles, dakilang wika ng demokrasya, ay siyang mag-uugnay sa atin magpakailan man sa mga mamamayan ng Estados Unidos at magdudulot sa atin ng mga karunungan nakasulat at iniingatan sa wikang ito.

Nagkaroon ng panahon na tila hindi maaari sa mga Pilipino na pagkasunduan nilang ang isa sa mga katutubong wika ay piliin na maging wikang pambansa, nguni't sa wakas ay napakilala nating lahat na kung ang isang wikang dayuhan ay matatanggap natin para maging wikang opisyal ng Pilipinas, lalong matuwid namang dapat nating tanggapin ang isa sa mga wikang katutubo natin upang maging wikang pambansa nitong ating bayan. Hindi sa pagbibigay ng lagpas na pagpapahalaga sa tungkuling ginagampanan ng isang wikang panlahat sa buhay ng isang bayan, maaaring banggitin natin ang katotohanan na sa Silangan ang kaisa-isang bansang nakagawa ng pinakamalaking pagkasulong at nakasapit sa isang mataas ng kala-gayan sa angkan ng mga bansa, ay ang tanging bansang may isang wikang panlahat—ang Hapon. At ang alin pa mang ibang bansa na nakapagtamo ng pagka-bansa at sa kapang-yarihan, maging sa lupalop ng Amerika at sa Europa, at maging sa Aprika, ay bansang may isang wika na pambansa at panlahat.

Ngayong araw na ito, sa pagpapatibay sa Tagalog bilang saligan ng wikang pambansa ng Pilipinas, ay naisakatuparan natin ang isa sa pinakamimithing pangarap ni Rizal.

Wala nang lalong mabuting paraan ng pagpaparangal natin sa banal niyang alaala sa anibersaryong ito ng kanyang pag-papakasakit sa kapakanan ng ating malayang pagkabansa.

Hinahangad ko para sa inyong lahat ang isang Maligayang Bagong Taon.

Speech of President Quezon on government policies and relation between the National Government and the provinces

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On government policies and relation between the National Government and the provinces**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, Manila, February 14, 1938]

Mr. Secretary, Gentlemen:

This is not going to be a formal speech. I have not prepared any speech, but this is going to be a heart-to-heart talk with you. In the first place, I want to welcome the newly-elected as well as the reelected governors and the mayors of their respective cities who have been appointed by me, and to reiterate the sentiments which I had expressed in my telegram which you received, Mr. Secretary. (The Secretary of the Interior: "I received it, Mr. President.")

There are a few questions that I want to touch upon this morning. The first refers to the relation of the provinces with the National Government. Under the Constitution and under the existing laws, we have a government in the Philippines which places the ultimate responsibility for the execution of the laws upon the Chief Executive of the nation, and in order that the Chief Executive may discharge this duty of supervision and control over all executive departments of the Government, provincial and municipal governments, and all city governments. In the performance of my duties as head of the National Government, the department secretaries are vested with powers and responsibilities to manage the different departments of the Government subject to my supervision and control.

As the head of the National Government, my duties with reference to the provinces and municipalities are performed through the Department of the Interior, the provincial and municipal governments; particularly, by the provincial governors, the city mayors and the municipal mayors. It is very important, therefore, that the provincial governors, the city mayors, and the municipal mayors should be informed of the general policies of this Administration as would affect their respective provinces and municipalities.

The first duty of the Government is, of course, the maintenance of public peace and order. The actual function of maintaining peace and public order fell formerly upon the Constabulary, and now upon the State Police which has been organized recently. Provinces and municipalities, which are created by a set of laws, are not affected by the law creating the State Police. In this respect I am going to say that the provincial governors in their respective provinces, the municipal mayors in their municipalities, the city mayors in their respective cities, are duty-bound to maintain peace and order. From the time the National Assembly enacted the law creating the State Police, there has arisen a situation which I think demands further consideration. I have not had the time to study closely the organization of the State Police nor have I been able to give close consideration to the rules and regulations that have been issued with my approval by the Department of the Interior, with reference to the State Police. But I feel that some kind of revision ought to be made of either the rules and regulations or the law creating the State Police itself. You have a very fine opportunity to discuss this question during your convention. It is one matter which I want you to consider and discuss carefully. Devote most of your attention to this question for it directly affects the provinces and municipalities.

I desire a frank and honest discussion of the relationship of the provincial governors with the police force in their respective provinces, and of the city mayors and the municipal mayors with the police force in their respective cities and municipalities. I want you to discuss this question as if I had not recommended the enactment of that law to the National Assembly. Don't feel that just because the law has been enacted upon my recommendation, you can not express your opinion against it. If you are against the law, don't feel that I am against you; nor should you feel that, because the Secretary of the Interior has issued the rules and regulations which have been approved by me, you may not discuss those rules and regulations without incurring the displeasure of the President.

Gentlemen, there is nothing in this question that involves confidence on your part, or on the part of either the President or the Secretary of the Interior. There is an idea which is quite general among us: that if you express an opinion contrary to those of your superiors, you go against them. The idea is nonsensical. I want you to feel free in expressing your opinions. Now, don't be afraid to express them; but don't criticize me. It is not right to lambast me. And as President of the Nation I might suspend you. Now is the time for the provincial governors to express their opinions but not the opportunity to stand up and attack the President. /Laughter/ If you attack me, I will suspend you. You can express your opinion freely on the policies of the Government, either national or provincial, affecting your respective provinces. You can say you are not in accord with our policies. But I don't attribute our mistakes to bad faith. We all make mistakes. It is not humiliating to own our mistakes and it is a great help to the administration if you should call my attention to those mistakes. It is one thing to express your opinion freely, whether or not you agree with me or with the Secretary of the Interior; it is another thing to start saying that we are dictators or something else. I welcome the first; but I won't tolerate the second, which is demagoguery.

You have duties to your constituents and to your province to perform. I want you to remember this, too—that while you have the right to discuss public questions and to express your opinion freely, it is your duty to abide by a decision that has been made by a lawful authority and, particularly, by the President on matters which are within his province to decide. You can ask me or you may tell me that you do not agree with my acts. You can say, “Mr. President, I think you are mistaken.” But do so in good faith.

When a decision has been made on it, a question should be considered settled. For if I decide a question, I have the legal authorities behind me. And if a governor does not execute my decision, I will remove him. Under the Constitution, the final responsibility rests upon me; therefore, I ought to be the final authority. But never feel afraid nor be embarrassed to write the Secretary of the Interior or me whenever you think we are doing something that is not right. Don't have any hesitation about writing; write. You have a fine opportunity to express your opinion that some change be made in the law creating the State Police; or that some of the rules and regulations issued in accordance therewith ought to be repealed or amended.

There are two things I want you to bear in mind. First, I am not willing to permit the appointment of a policeman if he does not have the necessary and proper qualifications. Policemen are forbidden from playing politics. Once a policeman enters the Government service, he can be certain that he will retain his position as long as he complies with his duties. You may discuss the question of police appointments. I have not made up my mind about the matter. I have settled my mind, however, on the question of who shall finally determine whether a policeman is to be separated or not. I do not want the municipal government to exercise this final authority. It must be exercised by the National Government because it is a right guaranteed under the Civil Service. I must have a very satisfactory evidence before any removal should be made in the police force; and that evidence must be coured through the Secretary of the Interior who is the official charged with the supervision of provincial governments. There will be cases, in fact, there is going to be one right now, where I will act directly by either suspending or removing a police officer from the service without waiting for the opinion of either the governor or the municipal mayor or of even the Secretary of the Interior. If I receive a complaint against an act committed by a chief of police or even by a policeman, I shall order an investigation; when I am satisfied that the crime committed warrants drastic action, I shall not waste my time going through the red tape of sending the papers to the Secretary of the Interior or to the governor of a province. I am not a hypocrite. I will not wait for the recommendation of either the Secretary of the Interior or the provincial governor before acting on it.

I shall now refer to the case of the chief of police of Janiuary. I have dictated a letter ordering his removal from office. I am also ordering the removal of that fellow, Adelantar, one of the secret service men of Iloilo. Outside of these cases where I personally take direct action, I won't do any interfering at all. I want you to know I have the right to take direct action in spite of the regular procedure followed by the Administration. When the President feels he should take personal action, he does so because he possesses that right. It is also his responsibility.

In the case of that fellow in Iloilo, the manner in which the offenses have been committed and the occasions which gave rise to the offenses committed, impose upon me the duty of taking immediate action. It took place in connection with the strike. The strike was reported in the papers. The strike may or may not have had serious consequences, but this is the time for me to clearly demonstrate what I consider to be the duty of the Government to exercise its powers on matters of strikes. That is the reason why I took direct action on those two cases. I have taken

direct action in the case of the fiscal of Iloilo. I have ordered his resignation. I have also dismissed the acting fiscal from office.

The report of the acting fiscal denied the use of handcuffs. The fiscal knew the report was false. I ought to have removed him instead of merely asking him to resign because he was an accomplice to the falsehood. I have ordered his resignation. I was a little lenient when I permitted him to resign; I should have dismissed him.

I have been in politics all my life. No man can know the exigencies of politics better than I do; and no man can sympathize better with these exigencies under pressure of politics than I. But there are certain things that I will never tolerate (because they can not be tolerated under any circumstances) — and one of them is abuse of power. When any official of the Government abuses the power vested in him, I shall deal with him rigidly. I may close my eyes on little favors that are made here and there when they do not constitute an illegal act. But every time an abuse of power is committed by anybody, and I do not care who he may be, I am going to deal with him drastically.

Any and every abuse of power committed by every official of the Government, no matter whether he is the lowest policeman or the lowest *teniente del barrio*, is always regarded by our people, especially by the masses, as an evidence that the entire Government is abusive. They will say the whole Government is corrupt and is abusing its power by maltreating the people when they find out that I do not take definite and drastic action when a misconduct is committed somewhere. I will not tolerate that. So, please remember, if you have some political favors to recognize you may dispense them provided they are not against the law. I will have nothing against you if you or your subordinates will not abuse your authority; but if any of your subordinates abuses his authority, do not pay any attention on whether under the rules and regulations it is the Secretary of the Interior or the President who has to act. When you cannot act directly even in the case of engineers, superintendents of schools, and Constabulary commanders who are under your jurisdiction any time they do something that should not be tolerated, bring it to my attention through the Secretary of the Interior who is your chief; or, when I am visiting the provinces, tell me promptly and I will handle those fellows. One thing I want every governor to particularly bear in mind: I am for a fair and just government — a government that respects the law and makes everybody respect and comply with it. It is on this assumption that I am going to give you, gentlemen, through the Department of the Interior, or through my office directly, the support and cooperation you need in your administration. As long as you carry this injunction to the letter you can rest assured that we are going to support you.

Now as to the police. Related to this matter is the case of the Chief of Police of Janiuary, of which I have already spoken. The question of social justice is very much advertised. Let us have a very clear understanding of its meaning. Social justice does not mean favoring the poor or favoring labor against anybody regardless of whether he is right or not. Social justice does not mean dispossessing the rich of his lawful property and distributing that property among the unemployed. Social justice, in other words, does not mean communism. Social justice means exactly that — social justice. Society is composed of different elements. If you divide it, if you consider it from the standpoint of those who invest money and those who work either with their brains or with their hands, you divide it into capital and labor. If you consider society from the standpoint of what constitutes it, you divide it into men and women. If you consider it from the point of view of their different interests in life, it may be divided into the wise and the ignorant and into the intelligent and the uneducated, and so on. But social justice involves all; it means justice for every constituent element in the community. Hence, when a question is before us, we must not consider whether that question involves this class of society or that class, or whether it involves this individual or that individual; for every question submitted to us we should consider not only the much advertised side of justice, regardless of who would be affected by our decision, but also the side of true justice.

Of course, today, when you speak of social justice, you emphasize the need of giving better treatment to labor. Why? Because in the present state of our society in the Philippines, labor is not receiving its due. That is why I am interested in securing legislation that will improve the living conditions of laborers; that is why I am making speeches advising the people to remember that the right to property has its limitations—the limitations imposed by the welfare of the community where one lives. Property is secondary to the right to live. Whenever there is conflict between the right to property and the right to live, the latter should prevail.

In the case of strikes, provincial governors should study the existing relations between particular industries and labor in their respective provinces. As a general proposition it is better to have all disagreements between labor and capital

settled amicably or peacefully by submitting them to the Court of Industrial Relations. Our laws, however, do not cover certain cases of dispute. There is no prohibition as far as I know against strikes, and the Government must be impartial once laborers declare a strike against an industry or, rather, against a factory or an establishment which is not one of those affecting public interest. The governors must be on the alert in case of necessity so that the armed forces of the Government may intervene to maintain peace and order. But we should not start mobilizing either the Army or the police forces simply because there is a strike somewhere, especially when the strike affects a particular industry that does not partake of the nature of a public service. If the Government—whether national, provincial, or municipal—immediately mobilizes its forces and sends them to the central, if it is a central, or to a sugar factory, that gives the impression of using force in favor of the owners of the central or sugar factory. There is one reason for doing this. The leader of the strikers should be notified at once that they must not use violence because they will be held accountable by the Government, which may use force, if they violate the law.

But never interfere, never use the police force. Do not ask the Constabulary to go immediately where a strike has taken place for either side will say that you are favoring one of them. Do not do that. You have no more right to do that than you have to send an armed force to a meeting, which has been authorized by the competent authority, and surround the meeting with a large number of Constabulary soldiers or policemen. You may send some policemen to the meeting to hear what they are saying or to see if they are making trouble or making seditious speeches or to see what they are doing in case of some danger of personal attack. But never use the forces of the Government. However, be ready the minute violence arises.

Now, in the case of strikes against public utilities, you must try to get the leaders to submit the case to the Court of Industrial Relations. Tell them that if the strike is going to cause harm to the community or to the public, the Government will intervene to protect the public's interest. In these cases the interest of the public is paramount; until the question at issue is settled and it is properly determined who is right or who is wrong, the interest of the public must be protected.

Another question is the public works. I have recommended to the National Assembly the adoption of a fixed policy as regards the question of roads. Some roads are to be declared national roads; others are to be declared local roads. The phrase "local roads" refers to provincial roads as well as to municipal roads. The national roads will be constructed and maintained by the National Government. The National Government may, as far as its finances may permit, help the provinces in the construction of all provincial, municipal, or barrio roads; but it will not help the provinces in the maintenance of these roads. You cannot count upon the Government for more appropriations than what you are receiving now for the maintenance of these roads. I think there is a portion of the gasoline tax that goes to the provinces. You can count upon this fund, but beyond it you have to find the means to maintain these roads. I am considering a recommendation to the National Assembly which would authorize the provincial governments and the municipalities to create taxes and do away with certain limitations on the powers granted to the provincial and municipal governments in this respect. It is absurd to expect the provinces and the municipalities to support and maintain certain services and yet not give them the right to impose taxes.

With reference to schools, I shall urge the National Assembly to enact a law which would make the National Government adopt a fixed policy, that of building and supporting primary schools exclusively. The intermediate schools may be supported by the municipalities and the secondary schools, if academic, should be supported by the students or their families. The provincial government may provide for a limited number of scholarships, so that if among the poor people who attend the primary and intermediate schools, there should appear a poor talented student he would be enabled to pursue an academic education.

But the high schools ought to be supported, as a general proposition, by parents who want their children to become doctors, lawyers, and so on. The secondary schools giving vocational instruction ought to be supported by the provinces which are now supporting academic high schools. We have not as yet been able to consider how far the National Government can help the provinces in this respect. We will study this matter. But I want you, gentlemen, to understand that the question of vocational education is the reason why I am going to recommend that the Assembly pass a law which would define the educational policy of the Government. Under the Constitution it is our duty to give every child of school age at least a primary education. It has been found that the municipalities can do this, although we have adopted a half-hazard way of helping them. We are going to make the National Assembly responsible for all these primary schools in view of the fact that this year we do not have as yet sufficient buildings.

We are not going to make primary instruction compulsory this year. But we are going to have schools for all children who seek admission. And every child who seeks admission into the schools this year is to be compelled to continue his studies until he finishes the primary grades, and unless his parents undertake to accept the responsibility of sending him to school, we will not admit him. In two years we expect to complete construction of all schools necessary to admit all children of school age. Later we will have universal compulsory instruction.

This year the National Assembly appropriated P5,000,000 for schools. In 1939 I expect the National Assembly to appropriate more than P13,000,000 for the construction of schools; if that is not enough, in 1940 we will appropriate all the money necessary to have schools everywhere.

I am in favor of school buildings made of concrete. Two years ago I was not. I wanted school buildings made of wood because it was necessary to have as many schools as possible, and to me the question of permanency of the building was secondary to the question of admitting as many children as we could possibly admit. But now it is different. We have the money to build these schools. The money we are receiving does not come from the taxes collected here but from the taxes of the Philippine Government collected in the United States. These tax refunds are, not going to last forever. As soon as we become independent they will cease to come; America, however, will continue to collect these taxes, but the taxes they collect will go into the Treasury of the United States. If we only build them of wood, these schools ten years, fifteen years from now, will all be destroyed and the Government of the Philippines by that time will not, I think, be able to build again similar schools. So, while we have the money let us build permanent buildings so that in the future the responsibility of the Government will only be to maintain those schools and not to build new ones. My idea, therefore, is to have concrete buildings.

Well, now what else? I have nothing more to say that I can think of. I want to close, however, by saying this: let us have perfect cooperation between the provincial governments and the National Government, for only in that way can you and I be certain of success. You must keep careful watch so that abuses will not be committed in your respective provinces; when they are committed they should be corrected. The *tenientes del barrio* should visit their respective barrios and so should the municipal mayors. If you, gentlemen, can do it you should also visit the barrios. That is one way by which you can find out what is happening to the people in the barrios. I am not asking too much of you when I ask you to visit each barrio. I had been a governor myself. When I was governor there were no automobiles in the Philippines yet, and in the Province of Tayabas there was only one road on which I could travel by carromata. In order to visit the barrios of my province I had to go on horseback. I visited every barrio in the Province of Tayabas.

Now, gentlemen, you can make your trips by car and the worst trips by horse. So, I have the right to expect you to visit your barrios. It is to the barrio where the Government must go first. It is to the people in the barrios that you, gentlemen, must talk; tell the people that the purpose of this Government is to do justice by them. It is to those people that you must give information as to what the Government is doing.

I want to tell you right now, in the presence of the Secretary of the Interior, that I do not care a bit about his National Information Board. If the provincial governors, the municipal mayors, and the municipal councilors would take time to inform the people of what the Government is doing and what we want to do for them, we could close the National Information Board. But you are the ones who must do it.

Fortunately, I do not think there is any governor who belongs to the opposition party. And as Chief of the Government, and as titular head of the party although I am not its President, I have the right to ask you to do this. But if there is anybody not belonging to the majority party, I will make him do it anyway; if he refuses, I will get rid of him. This is a duty of all officials. Go to the barrios, go to the municipalities. Tell them of the Government's activities but do not promise them heaven. Do not lead them to believe that they can continue having a fine government with schools and roads without paying taxes. The old style of making speeches promising all kinds of public improvements and promising all kinds of nonpayment of taxes, must be stopped. I do not want the provinces to ask for the condonation of land taxes, and I do not want the Assembly to approve legislation which will condone land taxes. If you think it is necessary to revise your assessment, do so with fairness and justice. But never tell the people they will no longer pay taxes.

If the Assembly should pass such laws, I would veto them. It is necessary to make every citizen feel he is part of the Government, and the best way to make him feel it is by making him contribute something, no matter how small. We are not going to interfere with the exercise of your powers as long as you act within the law and attend to the business of your province. I had been a provincial governor. I was also a councilor once, and I know how a provincial governor feels when he is treated without due consideration by the authorities in Manila. We will give you the support you deserve in the exercise of your rights and prerogatives as provincial governors until such time as you may abuse these rights and prerogatives, in which case it is our duty to intervene. And please do not ask me for things you know I can't do. Save me from the embarrassment of having to tell you no. Ask me only for things which you know I can do.

The other day, while I was visiting one of the municipalities of my province, one of the officials asked me to secure an appropriation with which to build their municipal building. I asked him, "Naloloko ka ba, chico?" (Are you getting foolish, my friend?) I will veto any appropriation for municipal buildings. Let me tell you what I am willing to do. They can use the money for schools, for barrio roads, for good town streets. They can spend the money for water, not gas. I am going to have the law so amended that the National Government can appropriate more for the construction of markets. You can use the money for many things helpful to the municipality, but never for municipal buildings. A municipality having no municipal building ought to disappear as a municipality. This is my answer to that request. Certainly, if the people of the municipality do not have enough civic spirit to build their own municipal building, they must be content to live in a barrio. Do not let them ask for this appropriation for I will veto it. The people of that municipality ought to be ashamed for having asked it. They asked me a thing I could not give.

I think that is enough. I am very happy to have met you.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Social Justice for the laborers, February 17, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR THE LABORERS

[Delivered at a luncheon given in honor of the representatives of labor
under the leadership of Mr. Cresenciano Torres, at Malacañan
Palace, Manila, February 17, 1938]

Workmen and Fellow Countrymen:

I have invited you this time because, in the first place, I wish to see you and talk to you; in the second place, to make you understand that this very edifice is truly not the home of the President of the Philippines, but of the Government; and thirdly, to convey to you the meaning of the various matters which I said yesterday to the working men regarding the meaning of "social justice."

First, I must inform you all that politics no longer occupies the mind of the President of the Philippines because our Constitution prohibits the reelection of the President of the Philippines. Such being the mandate of our Constitution, there is no pretext or necessity for my meddling with politics except in cases where the interest of our people requires it. It is my desire to express, by deeds, anything I wish to convey to all relative to the administration of our Government, without ever giving such deeds any political weight or color. I believe I must concentrate my efforts on what I consider will aid the progress and advancement of the Filipino people—national needs which must not be taken to mean that I should be reelected because that is prohibited by the Constitution. I believe that the time is not far distant when I shall have to descend into my gloomy grave, hence, before reaching such fateful moment, I wish to show and demonstrate to our people that I have been true to the trust reposed in me and that I have done my duty in directing our Government and taking care of its interests.

As must already be evident to all, my sole desire is to foster the welfare and tranquillity of all the workingmen, whom I should like to help at all times. I have shown, by word and by deed, that I have always cherished this desire, hence I presume they will not say that I am not helping them if I can do so under the law. There can be nothing worse or more bitter to the heart of anyone than to prohibit him from exercising his rights and to tell him that he is without prerogatives, especially if reason and justice are on his side.

However, this is not our only wish, we who dwell in this country, but we likewise desire to live and do good, so that we may live in the memory of our people. For a man there can be nothing more sublime than to be remembered, after death, for the good he has done to all. Conversely, there is nothing more bitter to contemplate than that a person, resting peacefully in his grave, should be remembered with contempt and execration for the errors and iniquities committed by him in life.

There are only two things which a person must think of and remember. That we desire to live long, though we be poor, so we might live in the memory of our compatriots and descendants; or that we be remembered, in bitterness, for the wrongs we might have committed. I suppose you all know my idea that if a man dies, he is dead; but while he is living he must think of a life beyond the grave. I have mentioned this so that you may know what I cherish in my heart and keep uppermost in mind, which is nothing else but to achieve the best I can for the common welfare. I am doing that through the exercise of extensive powers conferred upon me as President of the Philippines.

I do not attach great value to any power vested in me by virtue of my office, because I have already outworn the thrill in such power. My whole ambition, today, is to do what I can for the welfare and contentment of all. I have, for this reason, told my friends that it is my desire to use the authority vested in me as Chief Executive of the Government, for the benefit of our nation and people, and not to serve the interests of any particular person or of myself. I have made known to the friends who are constantly at my side that my fervent desire is to aid and take care of the poor, but that such assistance will be within reason, for although a person be poor, yet I cannot help him unless he be entitled to it by right. That is what I really cannot do—side with those who are in error or with those who err. You must, therefore, take care not to do anything contrary to law, so you would not have occasion for ill-feeling towards me.

During my first term as governor of the Province of Tayabas, I told the people of my province, especially the poor, that I was hoping for and desiring their valuable assistance in the establishment of a clean government and honest public service. That did not mean that I took the part of the poor as against the wealthy, or that I would aid only the poor; it simply meant that, as the poor did not have any means to pay for their needs nor were they learned enough to help themselves, I, therefore, considered it reasonable to defend them and their rights if they were aggrieved. That was similar to what I have in mind now, and of which you must know, regarding the so-called “social justice.” This means justice not for a few alone but for all, especially for the poor workingmen who are, as it usually happens, injured in their rights; it is justice for everyone, now especially, when all are aware that the field laborers and factory hands are of the belief that they must be given that to which they are entitled, in conformity with the desires of the Government to rest social security on a solid foundation for the benefit, not only of the laboring class nor of the poor but also of the capitalists.

The Government should not tolerate any improper habit or custom. Any government capable of consulting the feelings of the workingmen will be a just and stable government. Hence, the Government should lead in knowing the needs not only of the workingmen but also of the capitalists. It is the duty of all not to tolerate bad practices in our country, hence I will not tolerate them while I am at the helm of our Government. As “Florante” of the kingdom of Albania said, “Here in our country I desire reason to rule; and to have equality before the law, be a person wise or ignorant, rich or poor.”

You, the representatives of labor, who are now here with me, have the bounden duty of exerting all efforts to aid the Government, because it needs your help and cooperation. You can help the Government by exposing any improper governmental administration, and by telling what must best be done for your interest; and it is likewise your duty to tell the working classes what the Government is doing to promote their well-being. That is the real meaning of social justice for the people, whatever be their ambition or condition. For this reason, the working classes should never resort to force either to secure their objectives or to break the laws of the land; they must likewise cultivate the qualities of patience, constancy, and self-control, while the Government is striving industriously to obtain social security and financial amelioration for the working masses.

I need not set forth the probable plight or injury that would result if you were to commit unlawful acts. I am reiterating, however, that I am always ready to defend you if you are aggrieved, provided you are in the right. I do not mean by this that you should not use your power; I mean that we must temper our force with reason, and employ it only where it is lawfully proper, for you must understand that it is the duty of a government to maintain peace, order, and harmony among its citizenry. We must never allow any disorder which will give others an opportunity to laugh at or mock us, knowing we are ruled by laws we ourselves have made. Our country must never be a laughing stock of other governments.

We must bear in mind that the President of the Philippines, in representing his people, is responsible for the efficient administration of the affairs of his country; hence, I will never allow any one to impugn or break any law enacted by our assemblymen for the well-being of our people who, in the last analysis, are the governing power.

I cannot also permit it to be said that in the Philippines force can prevail to the utter disregard of the authority of the Government we have constituted and obeyed. We used the might of the Philippine Army in Pampanga, where I was compelled to send troops, to quell the disturbances caused by the deliberate burning of cane-fields. In the disorders in Iloilo, the workers did not set cane-fields on fire; instead, they merely went on a strike. Unfortunately, the local

authorities there also used police force and violence in subduing a man and handcuffing him while in jail upon order of the chief of police, without the fiscal making an investigation of the matter.

On that occasion I immediately gave orders that the fiscal, who failed to make an investigation, and those who abused their authority by committing violence on the laborer, be punished. I demanded the Iloilo fiscal's resignation; I removed the assistant fiscal, the chief of police of Janiuay, and an Iloilo detective from office. I also ordered that an inquiry be made into the violations of law committed by these men, and should their offenses deserve greater punishment that they be prosecuted according to law. The findings of the investigators convinced me that what they did to that laborer and the failure of the officials concerned to do their duty were serious, and that force should not have been used. I am, therefore, making it understood that if I learn of any violence, I will be compelled to use the forces of the Government, regardless of who may be injured, and should it be insisted, it would be far better for me to go to the Great Beyond than I might not be constrained to use the Government forces against you.

I beg of you to be a little considerate and discreet, for you must not forget that the solution of the problems confronting the working classes in this country is not an easy matter. I am fully aware of my responsibilities, and I shall not fail to do anything necessary to foster the progress of our country and promote the well-being and prestige of all, especially of the working classes; but I shall never do anything which should not be done. I shall do my best to induce the National Assembly to pass a bill that will enable many of our workmen to earn a decent livelihood—although our country has not yet reached an industrial stage of development—because I fully realize that there is nothing more distressing to a workman than to be looking for employment without finding any. We can build quite a number of factories, but our Government has not enough money available; neither do I have enough money of my own to give for the purpose. Our Government is unlike that of the United States, which is so wealthy that if there are no public works constructions, it spends untold amounts for the relief of the poor and the unemployed. We cannot do that because our Government is too poor; and if we are to continue working although our factories have no money, then it will be better to close them down. Another deplorable condition: if the laborers demand an increase in wages, employers usually reply that they will have to close down their factories, a situation that would not cause me any loss of sleep, although I would really worry about the fate of many laborers who would naturally have no means of livelihood.

There are truly rich factories which, because of their large profits, should pay their workers well, although they never do so. What then should be done in this case? The Government is in a quandary. Let us take, for instance, the cigar industry. I believe the cigar-makers do not earn enough; but I have been informed that if their wages are increased, there will be no money available for the purpose; and, as oftentimes happen, there is not even work for them! If you have been promised big wages, and the same cannot be given to you for lack of funds, what will happen to you? Therefore you, too, must think seriously of what is happening. We will be able to discover remedies for these problems; but we will not find them in one or two years. If we want to build a nipa house, for instance, it will take us one or two months to finish it; how much more time then must we need to settle so important a problem as this? There is no more difficult undertaking than this, for even if we insist on raising the wage scale of our working classes and the capitalists do not have the money, nothing can be done about it. Nevertheless, let us wait for the ultimate solution of this matter by the Government.

I have no objection to the cigar makers going on strike if they can no longer stand prevailing conditions; but what are they going to get out of it? Though you demand higher wages, if the employers cannot meet them financially, you will not get anywhere. Bear in mind also that a capitalist invests his money with an eye to profit, and if he knows he cannot make any profit, he will not invest his money in that venture. I have been informed likewise that the capitalists, to avoid paying high wages, send their tobacco to the provinces for manufacture because the wage scale there is low; therefore, if our workmen here stage a strike, what work can I give them to enable them to make a living?

Nevertheless, I promise to give them remunerative employment provided they are willing to work. Let them go to Mindanao and work on the Government roads under construction there, and I will even increase their wages, because I have set aside P2,000,000 for such public works projects. Another problem is that there are many women cigar makers, and this is not easy to solve. The problem of our cigar makers is an illustration of the point I am trying to bring out. I have mentioned it because I am in the habit of broaching only those questions which are capable of solution and not of being simply spoken about, or of making promises which I would not be able to keep.

I have a bill, which I expect to send to the National Assembly for action, providing penalties for employers who fail to pay their men on time. I have another regarding the use of tokens. A number of employers resort to this with the object of ultimately not paying their employees.

This is not only disgraceful but also the height of shamelessness. These tokens may be cashed before pay-day at a discount which is usurious in the extreme. Owing to this state of affairs, a poor workingman has to look for money, even if he has to pay a high rate of interest, as there is no other way out of his financial plight when he is not paid on the day he ought to receive his wages. This is, of course, real usury. It has likewise come to my knowledge that the money lent to workingmen comes from the factory owners or employers. Hence, a laborer pays interest to the man who does not pay him for his work. This is an injustice which may well be called robbery. It is a problem which, although difficult to solve, must have to be solved, and therefore I ask you to repose your trust in the Government and in the real leaders of your fellow workmen.

I wish to say to you that Secretary Torres may make mistakes. He is liable to err, because to err is human. But let me tell you that it would be hard to find a Department Secretary surpassing Secretary Torres in the faithfulness with which he does his duty and in his desire to help the workingman. Neither would I be able to find another Secretary who, like him, errs on the side of the laborer but never on that of the Government. If you are inclined to believe his detractors, I wish to remind you that he is the only man who is in a position to aid you. He is a friend of mine whom I have known since he was a chairman of the committee on labor of the House of Representatives; and it was then that I realized he is head and shoulders above anyone in his solicitude for the well-being of the workingman.

I also wish to tell you that all the suggestions that Secretary Torres makes to me, although constituting difficulties for the Government, are nevertheless for the benefit of the working classes. No person can accomplish everything he thinks of, and if you are looking for that in him, we may as well abolish the Department of Labor, although I cannot consent to that. I am asking you, therefore, to aid Secretary Torres. You must support him, and if he makes a mistake and you do not approve of his work, you are free to state your viewpoints. Naturally, not everything he does is in accordance with your ideas. Sometimes my acts are not in accordance with your desires and you may say that I am not doing you any good. But you, as well as I, may be mistaken, and you are right in tolling me what you consider proper and best.

I am sincerely telling you that my heart is with you, and although my ideas at times do not coincide with yours, my heart is always inclined towards you. We must, therefore, put our hearts as well as our minds to work in order that there may be mutual understanding. And never forget that my heart is with you, that I always remember you. The various matters appertaining to the various departments of our Government can be referred to the Departments of Agriculture, Finance, Justice and others, for their opinion. Do not allow yourselves, therefore, to be carried away by anything that will delude you into the use of violence or force.

Have confidence in your Government and tell your companions not to lose patience. Haste hardly ever has good results. We need a little more time. Rest assured that before Manuel L. Quezon ceases to be President of the Commonwealth, or before he leaves Malacañan, you will have the rights that the majority of the workingmen of other countries have, and we shall then be able to say that our country is a country where dignity and justice reign and where the people are peace-loving, free, and happy.

I thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at a tea party in honor of Coconut Planters and Municipal Mayors, February 19, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At a tea party in Honor of Coconut Planters and Municipal Mayors**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, Manila, February 19, 1938]

THE EXCISE TAX ON COCONUT OIL, NATIONAL LANGUAGE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

There is nothing more important for any people than to be conscious of their oneness as a nation; and as a people we will not be more conscious of it until we speak a common language.

A revolution started by the Government will always be peaceful being in fact an evolution, a rapid evolution. If we wait for this change in our national economic life to come from the masses, we will have a real revolution.

Social justice means treating every man and every class justly. And to treat them justly means to give each man or each class its due—that is social justice.

Some of my very dear friends are rich, others are poor. But as a class I love the poor better than the rich. The rich does not need my love; he has everything he wants. The poor needs my help, and it is by loving him first that I shall be able to help him.

He who governs with his heart and not with his mind, is liable to do injustice and also to make mistakes. We must govern with our mind; therefore, when I proclaim social justice I mean justice, not love, not generosity, nor charity, but plain justice.

The mayors of the Philippines are the eyes and the mouthpiece of the National Government.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am going to speak to the two delegations that are here—one composed of the representatives of the coconut industry and the other of municipal mayors; I will, however, speak to the representatives of the coconut industry first.

The Chairman tells me that you have passed a resolution asking the United States to do away with the coconut oil excise tax or, failing in that, to lift the injunction prohibiting the tax from being used directly or indirectly in the interest of the coconut industry. As already known to you, I was against the imposition of this tax on coconut oil coming from the Philippines. I opposed it and the President of the United States in a special message to Congress and through conferences with leading members of Congress, also made known his opposition to the proposed tax. Congress, however did not listen to the appeals of the President and imposed the tax just the same. This, in my opinion, is an indication of the impossibility of securing the abolition of the tax because I do not know of any influence in Congress greater than the influence of the President of the United States; and I seriously doubt that Congress, after failing to follow his recommendation on this subject, will proceed to repeal the tax.

I am willing, nevertheless, to support you in your request that the tax be abolished. I have not changed my attitude in this respect although I confess that I am not as positive today as I was before that the tax has done any harm to the industry, or that if it did, the harm was not as much as I had thought it to be, I say this because after the tax had been imposed the price of copra went up one time, which indicates that the price of copra is not necessarily affected by the excise tax, and it may therefore go up be there a tax or not. As a matter of principle, however, and regardless of the effect that it may have on the price of copra, I am willing to cooperate with you and to support you in your petition that the excise tax on coconut oil be abolished, because I consider the tax not only contrary to, but also a violation of, the provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Law.

Regarding the other matter, I am not willing to give my support to a petition that would permit the return of the tax collected from the coconut oil industry to the producers of copra. I am not willing to do that much less support a petition of the sugar producers that the excise tax be given only to themselves. The tax is being spent for the welfare of the whole country, which is as it should be; a tax, after all, should not be collected only to be given back to the people who paid it, for if that were the case, then it would be better not to collect the tax at all. But if what you want is to have the ban which prohibits our Government from using, directly or indirectly, any part of the coconut oil excise tax for the benefit of the copra industry lifted, then I have no objection to it. It really looks unfair that the people who pay the tax are the ones specifically deprived of the benefits that may be derived from the use of the money collected from the tax. I suppose that the purpose of Congress in inserting this provision is to prohibit us from giving the money to the producers of copra or, specifically, to the manufacturers of coconut oil. I do not believe that the members of Congress will have any objection if we produce as much copra as we may want. Congress does not concern itself with the copra industry; its opposition is directed towards the coconut oil industry because there is a general belief in America, which I believe to be wrong, that our coconut oil is competing with certain articles produced by the farmers in the United States. I do not believe that coconut oil competes with butter, but certain American interests think so, hence they want to put a clamp on the coconut oil industry in the Philippines. As I have said, they make no objection towards copra. You can send copra to the United States free of duty, but the minute you convert copra into oil, you will find them against you. Now, by doing away with coconut oil, I do not know if there are many other uses upon which our copra industry may thrive. All I know is, harm to the copra industry will result the minute they try to reduce the usefulness of the industry; so that ultimately it is the producer of copra who suffers from this opposition to the coconut oil industry. That is the reason why I am with you in your desire to have the tax abolished, or to have a part of it used for the promotion of the coconut industry in the Philippines, such as making researches leading to the discovery of new uses for the coconut that will revitalize our copra industry.

I want to say, however, that as long as the American-made law prohibits it, I will not recommend to the National Assembly any legislative measure appropriating a part of the excise tax to aid, directly or indirectly, the coconut industry. And should the Assembly appropriate any money for that purpose I would veto the bill because I do not want the Government of the Philippines to violate the condition under which the United States has so unselfishly returned the money to us. It is a principle of public and private morality that any nation or individual, under any and all circumstances, must follow the obligation involved in a contract; and that, when one receives a thing under an obligation to do or not to do something, one must honorably comply with his part of the obligation to give full validity to the contract. The most rudimentary principles of honesty, public and private, demand that we be true in everything we do. If we receive a sum of money and we know that that money has been given to us by Congress with the prohibition that we must not spend it directly or indirectly for a certain purpose, we can only follow one of two courses: either we refuse to accept the money so as not to comply with that condition, or we take the money and comply faithfully with the condition. For this reason I am determined that as long as the Government of the Philippines continues receiving that money and I am the President of the Philippines, that money will be spent only in accordance with the clear mandates of the law. I repeat, however, that I have no objection to having that prohibition done away with, and when that happens, I can promise you that I will recommend to the National Assembly measures whereby the coconut industry may be aided with the money coming from the coconut oil excise tax.

You know that my province produces coconut principally. I do not believe that any province in the Philippines, other than Tayabas, has been more seriously affected by the imposition of the coconut oil excise tax, because the Province of Tayabas depends mainly upon the coconut industry. One of the first provinces of the Philippines, it is a province which was classified as prosperous until some time ago. Today the Province of Tayabas is poor, and its

people today are undergoing economic difficulties. There was a time when we were unable to hire laborers from the Province of Tayabas to work on road constructions. We had to hire workers from other provinces. Very few Tayabenses were willing to work on road constructions because the coconut industry supported them, gave them a comfortable livelihood. Today, however, I am certain that I can find a number of Tayabenses working on the roads in Tayabas. The Mayor of Mauban told me a little while ago that he does not have enough money with which to employ the men who want to work on the roads. Thus, because my own home province has been seriously affected, you can understand how I feel about the coconut industry, And I cannot do everything to help the people who, for thirty years, have voted for me and given me every job that I wanted; the very people who now suffer economically because of the peculiar condition under which the Philippines has been receiving the oil excise tax refund.

Now, let us make a summary of my position in this respect. I am willing to support you in your attempt to do away with the tax on coconut oil. I am willing to support you in your desire that the prohibition to use any part of this money, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of the coconut industry be lifted. But I have said that as long as the law exists, I will continue complying with the law honestly and strictly. I will not make any move to go around the prohibition so that you may get benefits from that money. No, I will not do that. It would be a violation of my oath as President of the Philippines; it would constitute a breach of our good faith; it would be an evidence of the lack of honesty on the part of the Filipino people. Rest assured, therefore, that as long as I am President, I will not violate my oath nor will I do anything that will discredit my people,

I hope the whole country will be benefitted by the program of road construction that has been launched by the Government. We are building roads everywhere, constructing national highways, and I hope that by so doing all industries in the Philippines will derive some benefits, financial or otherwise, from them. And for this national project, the Government today awaits the approval of the National Assembly, which alone has the power to appropriate the funds of the national treasury.

There was a time when the Philippine coconut industry was more important, incomparably so, than the sugar industry. More provinces and more people depended on this industry than on the sugar industry, and yet you have not made yourselves perfectly organized to cope with situations that may be detrimental to the coconut industry. Consider the sugar people—they are well organized, and when they start an agitation you think the whole world is going down. They have been organized for many years. The Province of Occidental Negros gave more trouble to the Government of the Philippines than all the provinces put together. [Laughter] No, I am not criticizing them. My best friends both political and personal, come from Occidental Negros also. The Assemblymen of Occidental Negros have always given me their unstinted support; the Speaker of the House is from Negros. He is an old friend of mine who was also my colleague in the Senate. I mention these facts not to criticize them but to blame you because you prefer to remain quiet, say nothing, and do nothing. [Laughter] But if you make just one-third of the noise that the people of Negros make, I have no doubt that you will make yourselves heard day and night.

It is perfectly right for you people to be organized. You will be able to exert your influence better not only here but also in the United States. You can present your grievances in the proper way, you can present them in public, and you will be immediately heard. What do you do in your respective towns? You simply talk among yourselves and say “nalintikan na.” Although we understand that expression here, no one in the United States will understand it, much less know what you want, if you always talk that way. And I believe I need not do anything for fellows who are willing to remain passive.

Gentlemen, let me tell you this: Organize yourselves, study your problems and acquaint the peoples of America and the Philippines with a few plain facts; firstly, that the coconut industry, as one of the main industries in the Philippines, affects more people than those of the sugar industry; secondly, that our coconut oil is not really competing with any industry in the United States in such a way as to harm it. I repeat, you have to educate the American people on that. Another thing, I would not mind the imposition of a tax on coconut oil that is being used actually to produce butter. You can accept that for it would do you no harm since only a small amount of our coconut oil is used in the American butter industry. Or you can ask that coconut oil which is unfit for food requirements be taxed when used for other purposes. If the American farmers find out that they are not being hurt by our industry, I believe that they will not insist on having the tax imposed any further. In closing, let me reiterate that it is well for you to organize, to study your own problems at home, and to educate our Government and the

Government of the United States, our people and the people of the United States on the fact that you are the victims of a great injustice.

Permit me to say a few words in English to the municipal mayors. Lately, I read some articles published in the Herald, a newspaper which, although not mine, is thought of as owned by me. The articles which were written by the members of the Herald staff attacked, directly or indirectly, the plan of having a national language for the Philippines. Despite their criticisms, however, I want to say to you that we need a national language.

A professor of history, he is also a dean, likewise wrote an article making light of this plan to have a national language for the Filipinos, adding that it would take us one hundred years to develop a common language. No national language, let me tell you, has been made in twenty-four hours. [Applause] Every language in Europe that ranks as a national language has taken centuries to develop. One thousand years ago, the people of England, for instance, or of France, Spain, or Germany, did not speak the same language because every region in the same country spoke a different dialect. Was the professor right, therefore, in saying that we should not attempt to have a common language because it would take three hundred years to have it? What is one hundred years in the life of a nation? There is nothing more important for any people than to be conscious of their oneness as a nation; and as a people we will not be more conscious of it until we speak a common language. Can you imagine anything more peculiar than this convention of Filipinos with all members being unable to speak a common native language? I cannot, at this moment, speak any language which will be understood by every man and woman present. There are some of you who understand Spanish very well, others who understand English better. Very few of you, I would hazard, understand and speak both English and Spanish. Not all of you speak the same Philippine language by which you may understand each other—a fact that we may consider ridiculous, if not humiliating. And because they think they speak-English well, some of our young citizens think that what they have studied would be lost if they were to speak in a common native tongue; hence, they would not want their people to have a national language unless it be English.

It will take the Filipinos long to speak English with mastery—perhaps one thousand years, not one hundred. That is why in the United States the Americans speak a kind of English which is different from the English that is spoken in England and, therefore, it must not surprise us if in the Philippines we speak an English of our own. That is the reason why we should have a common language. Our critics forget one tremendous difference between America and the Philippines—the founders of the American Republic were Englishmen. They spoke the real English then; of course, for some reason they did not keep up speaking the English that Englishmen spoke in England. The Americans have maintained, in a general way, the proper pronunciation of English words. Nobody can tell me that an Englishman is not well understood when he speaks because his accents are different from ours. Everybody here, however, understands the English as it is spoken by our bright men who have mastered English. But how many Filipinos can devote their life to the study of English as long as these fellows did? What is the maximum period that a Filipino boy or girl devotes to the study of English? Not more than six years, during which they also have to study other subjects. And who are teaching them English—the English that they are learning in the schools today? Are they the Filipino masters of English? No, they are the poor teachers who know very little English, who have come to pronounce English badly. And the English of their students, I suppose, will even be worse.

We are not going to keep that kind of English—the English that nobody will understand. Of course there will be exceptions—there will even be a large number of people who will speak English well. Perhaps all the members of the National Assembly will speak English, perhaps all the municipal mayors will speak it, too, and so will the governors, councilors, or all the employees of the Government. But they do not constitute our people. They will understand one another but not one of them will understand the people of the whole country nor can they be understood by the people of their own country. [Applause]

The statement that it will take a Filipino to learn Tagalog, or an Ilocano or a Visaya to learn Tagalog, as long as it will take him to learn English is silly, silly. In the old days, every man from the province who came to Manila to study learned Tagalog after one year. But not today, because those young fellows speak English all the time among themselves.

As you know, I have met His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan. The Emperor of Japan speaks English, but in my conference with him he never spoke to me in English; he spoke in this language. I spoke in English and it was

translated to him, although he understood what I was saying. With him it was a national pride not to talk to me except in his own national language. Certainly, I would be in favor of making Spanish, or English, or any other language, our national language, if we could learn it as easily as we could learn one of the native dialects. The important thing is not to have this language or that language, but to have one language. It is easier for the Filipinos to have one language by using one of our languages or by adopting either English or Spanish. In fact, it would be easier for the Filipinos to learn Spanish than English and make it the common language, because Spanish is read and pronounced like Tagalog, like Visaya or like Ilocano. English is not so and, when you get these poor teachers who have not mastered English, each one pronounces each word differently and the poor barrio students all over the Philippines will be speaking the language as they heard it spoken by their teachers. It will not be so in Spanish because the pronunciation, the accent, is the same for every word.

I am in favor, however, of continuing the teaching of English. I want to keep men like Pacis, Lopez, and Mangahas—they are English scholars. As a matter of fact, we should continue teaching English in the schools. English is an important language to know. It is the universal language of commerce today. But do not attempt the impossible, do not attempt to make it the national language of the Philippines because it will never be. I do not care how long it will take us to have a national language. I do not care even if we should have to wait for one hundred years; English, however, will never be our national tongue. It can only be if we bring over 100,000 American teachers to teach in the elementary schools. But where is the money to bring 100,000 American teachers over? If you try to bring them here, I am sure the first fellows who will protest will be Pacis and Lopez. [Laughter and applause]

Of course, I do not expect all mayors to understand my Tagalog and I do not want anybody to fight aggressively for the Tagalog Language because it is not good to create an issue on the question of choosing a national tongue. But there ought not be any opposition toward creating a national language. You may ask, why should I care so much about that? I am already old, and very soon I shall be gone. I have been elected without the help of a single national language. For political purposes, I do not care what is spoken in the Philippines. But I have seen how terrible it is to continue under this situation. It is also humiliating. Everytime I go to the Visayan provinces to deliver speeches there, I always find an interpreter to be necessary. You may say perhaps that the remedy is to require every candidate for President to speak all the languages and dialects in the Philippines. While I have no objection to that, still it will not answer the question, because while that puts the President in contact with the people, yet it does not place all the citizens in contact with one another. The important thing is to have our people be directly in contact with themselves through a single language. It will take time, of course, before we could have a language of our own; but it would be all right even if it takes one hundred years to do it; and in having it, we should not be ashamed of the fact that we added some English or Spanish words to it. It is all right. Every language has been formed after many years, and every language has been formed by borrowing from other languages. Why should we find any objection to that?

What I am going to relate is a true story. I was sick in Baguio once, many years ago. I had a nurse; and, by the way, the nurses are supposed to be educated or used to be. [Laughter] They are now required to finish high school; in those days they were only required to pass the intermediate grades. One day, while I was resting in bed, the nurse came to me and said, “Mr. President, the press.” I said, “Tell the press to go to hell!” I was sick, I did not want to see anybody. The nurse went out and I heard her say, “The President says you go to hell.” [Laughter] Did you know, who the fellow was? I found out later that he was a priest. [Laughter] He was the Rector of Sto. Tomas University. [Laughter] It was a mistake due to bad pronunciation of an acquired language.

To the mayors I want to tell this: the Government is now trying to make what might be termed a social revolution. I call it social revolution because we are attempting to change some established practices in our economic life. It is better that this social revolution be started by the Government, because a revolution started by the Government will always be peaceful being in fact an evolution, a rapid evolution. If we wait for this change in our national economic life to come from the masses, we will have a real revolution.

The mayors are the officials of the Government whose main duty is to understand and then carry out our present policy of social justice. To understand it better, social justice does not mean favoring the poor whether he is right or wrong and prosecuting the rich be he also right or wrong. Social justice means treating every man and every class justly. And to treat them justly means to give each man or each class its due—that is social justice. The other day, I

told the representatives of labor something which I want to repeat to you because I never say one thing to one group and another thing to a different group. I take it that you are the representative of landowners, men who have the means. Gentlemen, my heart is with the poor, entirely with the poor. You can never divide your heart unless you are polygamous [Laughter]; even in polygamy, however, love is shown in varying degrees and you give your whole love to one for whom you have the most affection. Well, my heart is with the poor. It is not with the rich. I have friends, of course, among the rich. Ramon Soriano is rich and he is also my best friend. That is a different matter, however, for I am speaking of the social classes now. Some of my very dear friends are rich, others are poor. But as a class I love the poor better than the rich. The rich does not need my love [Laughter and applause]; he has everything he wants. The poor needs my help, and it is by loving him first that I shall be able to help him.

When it comes to giving justice I do not allow my heart to sway me into it. I do it with my mind because it is only the mind that can impartially measure the merits of each side. He who governs with his heart and not with his mind, is liable to do injustice and also to make mistakes. We must govern with our mind; therefore, when I proclaim social justice I mean justice, not love, not generosity, nor charity, but plain justice. I am not asking the rich to give charity to the poor. I am asking them to do justice to the poor, while I want the poor to recognize the rights of the rich. Today, however, we must do a lot for the poor because everybody knows that the poor people in the Philippines are not treated rightly. That is why I frequently speak about it, especially because some of our officials are always ready to serve a rich man when they meet him, while a poor fellow is not even given their attention.

Town mayors, I want you to treat the poor as you would treat the rich. When you go to the barrios, show the men of the barrios that as head of the town you are interested in their welfare and willing to help them. Make them understand, however, that there are things which the Government cannot do for lack of the necessary means.

(The President then continued in Tagalog, telling them that for the purpose of gaining votes they should not make promises which the Government or the candidates themselves cannot fulfill.)

The mayors of the Philippines are the eyes and the mouthpiece of the National Government. You are my eyes to see if abuses are committed, and you must go after those who commit abuses. You are my mouthpiece to tell the people that we are anxious to help them, to improve their lot, while at the same time we want them to comply with their duties as citizens. You must tell them frankly and clearly that this Government wants to be just, wants to be helpful, wants to do the best it can in the interest of our people. But remind them also of their duties as citizens. To do this you must go to the barrios, talk to the people and make your councilors and barrio lieutenants visit their districts.

We are lucky that we have several millions which we can use to further the cause of social justice. I wish I could give the money to my province which has a coconut industry and also to the other coconut-producing provinces. But I cannot do it. Nevertheless, you must realize that in this attempt of ours to change the economic life of our people, it is your duty to carry that message to the barrios. It is your duty to tell your friends, your relatives, most of whom I suppose are the well-to-do in each town, to treat the poor justly. Let us bring about this objective, which is so dear to my heart, of improving the living conditions of our people through the cooperation of those who have the means with those who have not,

I thank you.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon on Responsibility of Provincial Treasurers, February 22, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL TREASURERS

[Delivered at a luncheon in honor of provincial treasurers, at
Malacañan Palace, Manila, February 22, 1938]

Mr. Secretary, Gentlemen:

I am very glad of the opportunity to meet the provincial treasurers of the Philippines, and I am going to take advantage of this occasion to tell you a few things I have in mind with reference to your work. I think the last time I met the provincial treasurers, was soon after the inauguration of the Commonwealth Government. Then, I emphasized one fact: that provincial treasurers must not be involved in local politics. Since that time the administrative functions of the provincial treasurers have been transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Finance.

Now I want to say a few words to you explaining the reasons why this transfer was made, so that you may see the objective we had in mind. In the first place, under the Tydings-McDuffie Law, the National Government is responsible not only for the national finances but also for the finances of the provincial and municipal governments and all other subdivisions of the Government. It was necessary, therefore, that a consistent policy be adopted in the management of the finances of the Government and that the Department which was in charge of the financial affairs of the National Government be held also responsible for this and take care of the financial affairs of the provinces and municipalities. The transfer of your office from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Finance does not convert the office of the provincial treasurer into an office entirely disconnected from the provincial government.

You are the financial agents of these provinces; you are the connecting link between the provinces and the Commonwealth in their respective financial affairs. As a provincial official, it is naturally your duty to cooperate with the provincial governor. Do not think that because you are no longer under the Department of the Interior, you should feel no responsibility toward the affairs of the provincial government, or that you should feel entirely out of the provincial government's machinery. While you are the agents of the National Government in the provinces and municipalities, you are at the same time the financial officers of every province. It is in such capacity—as the financial officer of every province—that you should try to coöperate, in fact, coöperate cordially, with the provincial governors by giving them, in order to avoid conflict, your advice if your advice is sought or voluntarily giving your advice if you think that they are attempting to do something which you will have to disapprove in your capacity as provincial treasurer. But in the performance of this duty, try to show the governor of the province the respect and consideration which he, as the head of the province duly elected by the people, deserves.

I was shocked to learn of the malversation committed by the provincial treasurer of Surigao. I am going to see to it that he receives the maximum penalty the law imposes in this case. I was further shocked to learn that the same crime had been committed by the postmaster of Baguio. Gentlemen, it is almost disheartening to see that in the first few years of the Government of the Commonwealth such crimes could be committed. The outside world has always been doubting the ability of the Filipinos to govern themselves, precisely, because they dare charge government officials in the Philippines with lack of integrity and honesty. It is doubly your duty to disprove that charge by being

strictly honest in the administration of the funds placed in your hands and by being rigid in your supervision over the municipal treasurers in each province so that they may not easily appropriate or misappropriate government funds.

I have invited the Auditor-General to be present at this luncheon, not only because his office has a great deal to do with the offices of the provincial treasurers, but because I want to say to him in your presence that I do not consider the office of the provincial auditor as being absolutely free from blame for these occurrences. The case in Surigao is terrible. The misappropriation of the funds of the province had been going on for many years and if the auditor of that province was not criminally guilty, then he was criminally inefficient. If it was the fault of the system, and not the fault of the auditor of Surigao, then the Auditor-General cannot escape some responsibility for similar occurrences.

Now, gentlemen. I want to tell you this: I am going to change the policy heretofore adopted by the government that when some officials of the Government, who are occupying responsible positions, commit a fault—unless it is of a criminal nature—they are merely transferred from a big province to a smaller one or suspended from office. If a responsible official commits a grievous act under my administration, he will be punished by only one method: he will either be compelled to resign or be expelled from the service. Why? Because an official occupying a responsible position cannot remain in that position after he has shown his negligence, his inefficiency or his lack of integrity, and when you punish a provincial treasurer or an engineer or any other official of the Government occupying a similar responsible position by transferring him from a large to a smaller province, you are punishing the province instead because you are sending to that province an inefficient or an irresponsible official. Irresponsibility of a provincial treasurer—and I am speaking of the provincial treasurers because I am addressing them—is the same although he is the provincial treasurer of the small province or the provincial treasurer of the large province, for even if the work in a smaller province yields a lower pay, yet the same responsibility holds, the same kind of integrity, the same kind of honesty, and the same love of service are required of him. Therefore, there will be no transfer for him to a smaller province; there will be either resignation or expulsion. If the fault committed does not affect the integrity of the official but only his efficiency or industry, I will permit him to resign. If it affects his integrity or character, he will be expelled. This will be, without exception, the norm in every branch of the Government. I am told that the treasurer of Surigao had already committed several faults in the service and the Department of the Interior only deemed it sufficient to transfer him from a big province to a smaller one. And what is the result? He took P92,000 when he had a chance to do it.

There is another reason why no official of the Government should be kept in the service after committing a fault for which he should be punished. If a man is occupying a high position and you reduce him to a lower category, he will not work as industriously as before. And if he has been doing it badly, he will do it in a much more inefficient manner, for he will have lost hope for improvement in the service. The hope or ambition to improve, or the hope to achieve improvement, is one of the most powerful human incentives which could make a man do his work well. What do you do then when you punish an official by transferring him somewhere? You are keeping in the service an official who has a grudge against the Government, one who is resentful, and one who has no ambition. Don't do an absurd thing like that. It is better to get rid of him.

Every department of this Government has personnel that should have been fired long ago, but the policy of transferring has been the deterrent factor. It is well when, as punishment, officials are only transferred from a high position to a lower one; but, sometimes, when he is a man of influence and he has friends one cannot punish him for inefficiency, because his friends will push him up. That is why we have had officials in the Government who were raised to good positions because their friends worked for them. Whenever such persons are appointed, they prove to be incompetent to do their job. They are only weeded out when they are changed with competent and more efficient officials. They are only punished when somebody tells them what they are. They are told: "What do you know about service? You have been a pensionado of the Government for twenty-five years." I have had similar experiences when I decided to get rid of inefficient officials who were in the service for a long time. They always asked, how about our services?

You have been a pensionado all that time. You have no claim against the Government, your retirement had already been given to you even before you were retired! So there you are.

I have had some special cases. I do not want to mention the names of these officials but I have had occasions where the men affected were my old friends. But I knew how incompetent they were. I had tried again to get rid of them for the last five years. And when I became President, I tried again to get rid of them and it took me two years to find out that they were still in the service. When I learned that they were still in the service, I did not wait. I told them to resign. Today, they are out of the government service.

The provincial treasurers have made a wonderful record in the Philippine service. Most of the men who have occupied high positions in the financial department of Government were formerly provincial treasurers. You know that Don Miguel Unson, who became Secretary Finance, was once a treasurer. Carmona, I think, was a treasurer; so was Wenceslao Trinidad. Marabut was also a provincial treasurer. Gentlemen, you see that there is no limit to the opportunities before you. Don't you think that we have changed our policies about giving the provincial treasurers a chance to rise when they prove to be good executives? I have appointed some provincial treasurers to the position of mayor. I may, however, rectify some of my appointments. I do not believe that I ought to appoint treasurers to political positions, because that would be forcing the political virus into the blood of the provincial treasurers. I think I ought to keep the provincial treasurers entirely free from the political virus. Do you know that you are treasurers holding important and responsible positions? That fact speaks highly of you, collectively. I hope the provincial treasurers will keep up that reputation. Keep it up through the efficient and honest service that you render the Government; through your love for self-improvement and your devotion to duty. Remember that you are, as I said in the beginning of my remarks, exercising a very important function. You are the agents of the National Government who are charged with the duty of keeping the finances of the provinces and municipalities in a stable condition. Always try to be the best treasurer. Don't be satisfied with being rated as second-class treasurer, regardless of the class or the category of the province where you are; be a first class treasurer for a first class treasurer can fit in, in any situation. Don't let the governors treat you as their mere clerks for you are not. Treat them, as I said, in a spirit of helpfulness. Don't antagonize them, don't show them that you consider yourself superior. There is no sense in that. Only a small man is preoccupied with the question of whether his job is big or small. It is not what you think about the importance of your job, but your manner of performing your duty that will impress the people. Recognize the governor as the head of the province, elected by the people. Try to help him; be considerate with him. Show the people that you recognize him as your superior in hierarchy, not your superior in office, but only your superior in category. That has nothing to do with you. He can't boss you and tell you what to do. You assume the responsibility for your job because you cannot save yourself by having the support of the governor if you don't do your work well, nor can you save yourself by passing the buck to the governor just because he asked you to do the work for him; such actions wouldn't save you. So you had better cooperate with him.

I am giving support to the governors. I am going to consider them heads of the provincial governments, but I have told them also that the agencies of the National Government are not under their control and will not be under their control so long as I am President of the Philippines unless they become appointive officials, in which case they may be the representatives of the President in each province. Gentlemen, I do not want politics in the Government. In the case of the provincial governors they can play politics but not too much. They can play politics by doing something for their friends which is neither illegal nor unjust to others. For if they favor their friends by an unjust or an illegal act, I am going to dismiss them. They can play politics, but only honest politics. You cannot even play honest politics. Just have nothing to do with politics and do not pay attention to anybody who comes to ask you for favors. Nobody can save you, not even the Secretary of Finance. A secretary of a department should tell officials of his department that under civil service rules they are prohibited from taking part in politics. You know why it is important for you fellows to stay away from politics. Because if you participate in politics, your action will become your funeral. One day you may play politics in the manner that a governor likes it. Another day you cannot please him the way the governor wants to; then, of course, he goes after your scalp. So, don't play politics; as long as you comply with your duties and you don't insult him or do anything that will give occasion for him to say you are trying to humiliate him or to minimize his authority or to ridicule him before the people of his province, you will get along.

I am placing a great deal of confidence as well as hope for the success of my administration in the provincial treasurers. You can have no better chief than the present Secretary of Finance. I am positive that he will demand of you and expect of you a diligent performance of your duties as provincial treasurers, and I am positive, too, that as long as you thus act, he will give you all his help, support, and cooperation. That is one policy we have to adopt, and I am looking at my friend Medina because I think he is going to do it. We have to transfer the provincial treasurers

periodically. We cannot keep a provincial treasurer too long in any one province. I am not going to do it frequently because that means ruin for you fellows who have to carry your baggage every month. We always provide a reasonable time and if it is necessary to revise the law or the regulations whereby the provincial treasurers can be transferred from one province to another, the transfer will be made so that it will not cost him a cent. No treasurer should get the same amount for the transfer as would a treasurer who has a wife and twelve children; for another may have a wife and one child or another may have a wife and no children; others have no wives at all. If you give the same amount for the transfer it is not fair. The amount given should correspond to the actual expenses of transferring the movable properties of the provincial treasurer. Do not carry your pet animals or domestic animals or fighting cocks and expect the Government to pay for their transportation. You must carry only those things which constitute your family needs. We make the transfer for you because we want to protect you.

Unfortunately, our people do not know yet that the provincial official has some duties to perform according to law and that, much as he regrets it, he has to comply with those duties. Our people do not understand that. Most of our people believe that if they are your friends, anything they ask you as favor is your duty to perform. If you don't do it, they resent it and say, "*Masamang kaibigan iyan.*" (He is not a worthy friend.) Now, you try to do a favor to one and you find a million others asking the same favor. If you don't, they will say, "*Bakit si Fulano ay binigyan at ako ay hindi?*" (Why was Fulano given that and I was not?) Then your office becomes nothing. It is very hard for our people to understand that.

So do not permit yourselves to be tied up by friendship that will make your friends impose upon you; it is much better to make these transfers. If we make an exception for one, we have to make exceptions for others. Our Government cannot be successfully carried on unless you have principles and you apply them to everybody regardless of personal consideration. Such is hard, especially hard for me, because I love my friends, for sometimes by declaring these principles and enforcing them. I deprive even my friends of my help. It hurts me to do so; but those are the penalties of office, the penalties of duty, to do things that may hurt you. I cannot conceive of making a government more successful other than by laying down definite principles and applying them equally to everybody, friend or foe. When a man in my position yields in one particular instance to a request that is contrary to the policies of the Government then he must never deny to anybody what he has given to others. I will not do it for when I do that, then we do not help the Government. So those are the policies that we have to adopt. In the United States, this practice is not done. In the first place, the people reside in big towns, cities, counties or states, and their relatives are not so many. Besides in the United States the relative goes no farther than the mother, father or brother. Even the brother is not a relative in the actual relations. But here even the cousin of the fourth degree has to be renumbered. I can tell you that relatives of mine who come from our original line of ancestry which has existed for 300 years, perhaps even before the Spaniards came here, are many in Baler and they are either my uncles or my cousins, and that I either kiss their hands or they kiss mine. As I was telling Secretary Marabut, it will take generations before we can accustom our people to see that the Government has nothing to do with relatives and friends. Ami when they learn that, they will not feel bad when something affects their adversaries. All that we can do is avoid the occasion and when at last we are faced with the situation, stand by what is right. You fellows have to do the same.

This is all I want to tell you. Now, I repeat: you have a secretary who has my full confidence, a secretary in whose honesty and sense of justice I thoroughly believe, a secretary whom I know to be interested in you. It has been very difficult for us to transfer the positions of treasurers to the Department of Finance because something peculiar happened once. At the time the Secretary of the Interior (Alas), now the Secretary of Finance, was in favor of the transfer. Then he became the Secretary of Public Works. When he became the Secretary of Finance, he was against the transfer, and for a time although the question had been decided in the Cabinet there was no way of carrying out the decision until finally I had to intervene. Well, I am through with the argument. Gentlemen, I have had enough of the argument. It had to be done. I was told some treasurers did not feel that this was a good move because of the complications arising with respect to their offices. Now I want to ask you if you have anything to say on whether this transfer has created any special trouble for the provincial treasurers or has made it impossible for you to do your duties efficiently as provincial treasurers. Now, tell me the truth. Don't be afraid; I want information. Do you find that it is harder for you to do your work properly now than it was when you were under the Department of the Interior, because of the complications in the provincial government? (*Somebody stood up and answered in the negative.*) So you prefer the status under which you are placed now? I want to know it because there was really the impression, or at least I was told that it would be more difficult for the provincial treasurers to do their work under the Secretary of Finance, because the importance of their positions would be diminished. That is not true. I can say,

however, that the second part is not true. You do not have to tell me about it. It is not true because it is clearly defined that you can not be controlled by the provincial governors by the mere fact that you recognize the Secretary as your superior official. Usually, under the Department of the Interior, a conflict between the governor and the provincial treasurer could not be decided because it was difficult for the Secretary of the Interior to side with the treasurer; the treasurer always tried to please the governor and whenever he could find some way of pleasing the governor, he did it. Now with the establishment of the Department of Finance you do not have to please the governor. The Secretary will consider on its own merit every case that may arise between you and the governor as considered from the point of view of the Department of Finance. It is possible that the Secretary of the Interior may like to fight when the final change takes place, and when such conflict arises I never favor one side or the other. I do not try to please either side; I simply consider the merit of the case and I stand by the treasurer if he is right, or by the governor when I think the governor is right. The governors cannot scare me. I do not need their votes; they cannot use any undue influence and the only influence that can be exercised over me is what is best for the administration of the Government. What is wrong with that? The roads are being built. You will feel more free to act now, in accordance with your judgment, on every case that is presented before you. Only don't feel aggressive. Don't show the governors that you are not giving them your recognition. Don't forget that the governor is the head provinces; give importance to the fact of the election itself. Even if you should find that a particular governor is inefficient, just keep it to yourself. Treat him as if he were the greatest governor who ever lived. When you find him like that, show him that you want to help him, instead of humiliating him. And don't help him in a way that will make him feel hurt or humiliated, that the people of the province will say. "*Este gobernador está mangonado...*" (This governor is tampered with.) On the contrary, make him believe that you will obey him even if he does an absurd thing. It is in the interest of the Government that you should help him. All right, gentlemen, I am very happy to have met you. Good-bye.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on Enforcement of Eight-Hour Labor Law, strikes, and union among laborers,
February 23, 1938**

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**ENFORCEMENT OF EIGHT-HOUR LABOR LAW, STRIKES, AND
UNION AMONG LABORERS**

[Delivered at a luncheon given in honor of representatives of labor,
at Malacañan Palace, Manila, February 23, 1938]

[Before the President delivered his address, one of the representatives read a letter, containing a number of important petitions, from the "National Federation of Labor" which had been drafted at a meeting held by it under the chairmanship of Angel Marin. After noting the contents of the letter, the Chief Executive delivered the following address.]

Workingmen and Fellow Countrymen:

I thank you for your valuable help.

I am in favor of everything set forth in your petition. What I am about to tell you has already been told to the presidents of the various labor organizations and to Secretary Torres; namely, that we must agree upon the adoption of only eight hours of labor in all factories.

You must not become impatient; our National Assembly has been enacting labor laws the enforcement of which rests with the Department of Labor, which can order any factory to do what it should properly do. I am telling you not to lose patience, because anybody who undertakes an important task encounters travails and draws plenty from his store of patience. It is essential that we slowly but surely strive to work up towards our aspirations and have everything planned out carefully, so that our work may not fail. As regards a law allowing only a working period of eight hours I believe that it is not only essential but also high time that such a law be enacted and enforced without delay.

There are two reasons which impel the Government to pass the law which I have mentioned. First, it is not right to permit a man to do hard labor for over eight hours. This is too much for any workingman. If we were to ask any workingman if his body were strong enough to work 24 hours without stopping, he would reply that there is no laborer who can do such a thing, but, should the factory owner be asked the same question, he would reply that it is just and fair, solely as an argument to avoid compliance with the Eight-Hour Labor Law. This thing must be stopped at once, because we are not giants that can accomplish more than what we can physically do. And if this mistaken attitude is to continue, the day will doubtless come when our bodies shall feel the effects of continuous arduous work.

I am heartily in favor of enforcing the Eight-Hour Labor Law. The second argument which justifies new legislation fixing eight hours for labor is the tendency of certain employers to evade the present labor law. They take advantage of the fact that, in the same factory, certain kinds of work come under the law and others do not, thus postponing compliance with the law or, if it were only possible, never complying with it at all.

I agree with the statement of Secretary Torres and with what has been published in the papers that it is not necessary for the laborers to form different groups. I wish you would form only one group. Do not think, however, that I am saying this because I would not want you to come here every day; no, such is far from my thought. The lack of union among you is detrimental; as it is, you have a president for each group and it is probable that you will be used, to your disadvantage and for the selfish ends of said presidents, as tools for strikes. Beware of the labor president who, priding in his power that attracts the backing of strikers, plunges without reflection into any labor fray, knowing that while what he asks for is impossible of fulfillment for the group yet it serves to foster his own selfish interests.

As regards strikes, I wish to say that a strike is far from succeeding in our country; strikebreakers cannot be prevented from appearing because our labor organizations have no funds with which to support the strikers. This accounts for the failure, in most cases, of strikes here.

In the past the Government, while it did not prevent strikes, also did not favor them and this explains why strikebreakers were then protected. This, however, will not happen during my incumbency. As I stated in my letter to Secretary Torres, the Government does not favor the use of force against the workingmen, unless the latter break the law. This was shown in Iloilo, where the provincial governor used the municipal police forces of seven municipalities and the Constabulary stationed there, to patrol the neighborhood of centrals where strikes occurred. I put a stop to that. Whenever a strike breaks out, the Government is ready to clarify the issues involved and, provided the laborers do not violate the laws, I am also ready to stop the employment of strikebreakers in the factories. But I shall never consent to the use of the government forces or the Philippine Constabulary, especially if it is for the purpose of bringing about the failure of the laborers' cause. You must consider that strikes cause harm to many persons, not only to you, your sons, and your friends, but also to the factories; and they may also cause serious consequences, hence the Government must protect the people without favoring either side, and give justice to whom it is due.

It is very difficult to carry on a strike in our country and, especially, to make it succeed because our strikers are not adequately equipped to carry on a strike. And because it is not infrequent that strikers are determined either to come out victorious or die in the attempt, the country is sometimes placed in danger; hence, the Government has to use the most efficient means for averting strikes. At present strikes are almost unnecessary for promoting our welfare. In the past, the Government did not help labor and absolutely refused to recognize its rights; it is no longer so today. The government officials of today do not allow themselves to be influenced by capital. The capitalists are now powerless to impose their will on those who direct the Government. In my case, I cannot be dominated by either capital or labor. Labor, therefore, cannot expect the Government to be on its side, even if it is in the wrong; the same thing may be said of capital; only reason and justice will be the yardsticks by which the Government will act accordingly.

My heart is with the workingmen because it beats in unison with theirs; but my mind, as reason demands, is half on the side of the workingmen and half on the side of the capitalists. It cannot be otherwise for, as it is in all places, the law is for all; likewise, as President of the nation, it is my duty to act without leaning towards any side.

My whole heart, I repeat, is with you because I, too, am a poor man's son. I was a servant once and I endured more than what you are suffering now. When I was a student I continually lacked many of the necessities of life, and I had almost no money for my studies and my living. I can, therefore, understand well your present plight for which I desire nothing better than to give you a comfortable livelihood.

I have many friends among the wealthy and the capitalists; but I need not worry about helping them because they not only have everything a human being needs but also live in ease and comfort. But I do think of you, and if I ever think of them it is because they are good and loyal friends. My thoughts are with you all, with all I govern, be they capitalists or workingmen.

It pleases me to hear you say that you are ready to aid my administration and I appreciate the esteem which you feel for me. You, on your part, can look to me for help. I need your help so that I may help you.

I wish to remind you that the task of being President is a difficult one, as it is essential that he try to please all. At times there is a temporary need for general aid, but it is not likely that such aid will be agreeable to all. Of that, I wish to say to you frankly that in doing good I am not doing it in order that people may praise me, but only for the sake of the good itself. I always strive to do something beneficial to all, not with a view to leaving nothing worthwhile for my successor to perform—which may cause the people to say that only President Quezon, and none of his successors, was able to do—but simply because of my desire to have you all witness that I have, during my incumbency, done my duty towards you and towards all.

I wish to tell you that I have a particular friend who, whether I am seated or standing, lying down or rising, asleep or awake, and wherever I go, is always with me. This friend and companion is none other than my soul. What exalts a man is the purity of his soul, and if he resists any tendency to do wrong because his soul is pure, he thereby becomes sublime. And because my soul will never permit me to do anything which is not just, whenever my official duty demands that I enforce the law, even though I may deeply regret having to punish the violator, yet I will do so, be he my relative, town-mate or intimate friend, so that my conscience and my soul will not reproach me. That is why I told you that there is no more burdensome post than that of the President of the Philippines.

There is no harder task for a people than to enact legislation covering all their needs. It is easy to make laws, but it is another thing to enforce them. There are laws which have to do only with the amelioration of the workingman's lot and if this is the only thing we consider, the capitalists will close down their factories—an eventuality which will increase the army of unemployed. If the number of unemployed men and women becomes countless, it will be impossible for the Government to support them, because our Government is unlike the American Government which, if there is unemployment, is in a position to help the unemployed, thanks to its great wealth.

You have talked about your intention to discontinue the Commonwealth Government and to secure a grant of independence at an early date. Very well. If that is what you want, I can tell you that we cannot avoid having to go through hardships. We would have to collect heavy taxes which, should the people have no money to pay them with, would place us in a predicament. I do not want, I cannot permit, this to happen in our country. A person who finds no joy in his life may long for death, but our working classes should not think that way as their chances of attaining happiness are good.

I am doing everything possible to remedy the difficulties of our working classes and our capitalists; this will be a boon not only for myself or for ourselves, but also for those who will come after us. Only three years remain of my term, but during that period I will try to foster the well-being of all, if you will have the patience to repose your trust in one. Other achievements have not been realized yet because additional time is needed for investigation and study.

Bear in mind that there is no labor leader who can surpass me in my desire to promote your welfare. What I don't have I wish to possess. This makes me a "communist." But I am a "communist" in the sense that I would like to see the poor laborer enjoy perfect freedom to live his life in his own way and to acquire property; I don't belong to that brand of communists who propose to seize what is not theirs, that which they have not acquired by the sweat of their brow. I do not approve of this, because it is not fair to a man who owns something, on which he has spent a lot of time and energy, to be despoiled of his property by one who has neither put any capital nor labor into it. A person who is indolent and does nothing but wait for the time to eat and drink must not be classed as property owner. It is likewise unreasonable to despoil a person of his property—which I will not suffer to happen—because it is a gross and flagrant violation of the dictates of reason and right.

I wish to say to you that I don't wish to see happening in our midst that which is taking place elsewhere, namely, that when the hour to eat arrives, the property of others is offered to the needy. There are nations claiming to be "communists" and refusing to recognize the property rights of the wealthy, so that the Government, at its whim, can seize said property. I cannot subscribe to this theory and this is why I am not a communist. However, I do not want to see a man who refuses to pay his taxes—one who earns more than what he actually needs, who wallows in wealth, and whose only thoughts are to squander his money and have a good time, without remembering those who helped him accumulate his wealth, and who shows indifference to their condition to the extent of seeing them go hungry.

I cannot believe nor agree to what happens in other countries where factory owners can do what they please. Far better it is for such nations to vanish from the face of the earth, since it is a nation's bounden duty to give everybody a chance to live decently, like human beings and not like beasts. I would rather have all of us vanish from earth than witness such a thing come to pass in our country. Consequently I have no other ambition than to see a benevolent government in our native land where laws are just so that we may live in peace, that the stability of our country may be preserved, that our fellow countrymen may take advantage of that stability and our children and their children's children may see with their own eyes what we have so laboriously achieved.

In conclusion, I wish to make it clear that I am not inclined to favor any particular group or class. I shall extend help, especially to the poor laborer, as I am anxious to have peace reign in our country. I want to see you united, not divided by dissension, cherishing the same aspirations. There must be union amongst you so that I shall have only one entity to deal with. If you are divided and I make up my mind about helping one group, others may think that I do so because that group is closer to me-and if I am unable to give another group what it wants' it may turn resentful. Consequently the wisest policy for you is to unite so that you may immediately secure the best for your welfare. And, just as it is your wish and everybody's desire, mine also is the ambition to see you contented and prosperous.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on petroleum exploration in the Philippines, February 25, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

[February 25, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Petroleum is universally recognized to be among the most essential materials for modern industry and national security. Coal was long looked upon as the “mainspring of civilization” but with present emphasis on speed and efficiency, petroleum has come to be preferred. In the Philippines our geological surveys are not yet sufficiently complete to permit a sure answer as to what reserves of either may be counted on and it is a matter of the utmost importance to determine this as soon and as accurately as possible.

There are many indications of the presence here of petroleum but it is not certain that it exists in amounts of national or commercial importance. Geologists tell us that the Islands lie within a great belt of petroleum bearing formations which all but circle the Pacific but experience shows that within even this belt of favorable rocks, productive fields are the exception rather than the rule, and are limited in area. It has required expenditure of millions of pesos through a half century of time to find those now producing. A highly skillful technique of oil finding has been developed but it remains true today as it was in 1859 when the first productive well in Pennsylvania was brought in, that only by drilling is it possible to be certain of finding oil in commercial quantities. Modern oil wells are expensive. In the Philippines only one really deep test has been made. This well runs down almost a mile. It was financed and drilled by an experienced company with a well trained staff. With preliminary surveys and two shallower holes, one 1,200, and the other 3,750 feet deep, it cost approximately P2,500,000 and the company abandoned the field. In reporting on it the Company said: “The failure to find oil at Bondoc does not prove that there is no oil in the Islands; it means there is none in the area prospected.”

No major effort has been made since to find oil in the Islands and the only attempt to do so, operating under existing laws (Act No. 2932), resulted in such a stock selling scandal that in 1935, most of the outstanding leases were cancelled and granting of others has been held up pending investigation and determination of a new policy. Whether the existing law be perfect or imperfect the fact remains that it has been on the statute books since 1920 and not one commercial oilfield has been brought in. Meanwhile the world has faced more than one period of threatened shortage, millions have been spent in various parts of the world in looking for oil, and a number of the great oilfields of the world have been found; but none of this money has been spent in the Philippines, no oilfield has been found here and we are as far as ever from knowing if there are fields of commercial importance in the Islands—fields upon which the nation may rely in time of need.

To remedy this deplorable condition two steps are being taken. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce, acting on expert advice, has redrafted the regulations governing petroleum exploration and drilling leases and submitted them to the Council of State for approval, in an attempt to make the present law workable. This should

open the way to local groups which have neither the capital nor experience to handle larger areas than contemplated by the present law, but who might nonetheless wish to take the chances of success or failure involved in actual drilling of oil wells.

It is believed, however, that something much more drastic is necessary to break the block in the way of rigorous search for oil. The present laws, even under most favorable regulation and interpretation, effectually exclude those large companies which have the experience, the capital, and the motive to face the long and expensive campaign necessary to develop an oilfield. There is no such Filipino company in existence and because the Constitution forbids alien ownership, "exploitation, development, or utilization" of such natural resources, only American companies are now eligible. The alternative, the use of public money for this purpose, is not permissible because of the great risks and large amount involved. It should be frankly admitted that, however desirable, not to say necessary, it may be to find oilfields here if any be present, such an operation is necessarily highly speculative and public money raised by taxation should not be used for speculation.

With these alternatives in view, and after long and patient negotiations between experts and lawyers representing both parties, a plan has been evolved under which the Socony Vacuum Oil Company will undertake the work in cooperation with and acting for the Government. An agreement as to terms has been prepared and execution thereof is made dependent upon the passage of the necessary enabling Act. The Standard Vacuum Oil Company is an American corporation now operating as a marketing concern in the Philippines and already paying considerable sums annually in the form of taxes to the support of our Government. It is owned exclusively by two shareholders, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and the Socony Vacuum Oil Company, Inc., of New York. The resources, experience, and capacity of these companies are beyond exception.

This group is one of the few among those of experience in this business, which has shown an interest in finding oil here and has spent considerable sums in studies and field examinations to that purpose. When it had been determined that under existing laws no company could hold or operate a sufficient number of leases widely scattered over the Islands to insure enough trials to make a petroleum development project attractive, the Company approached the Government to inquire whether it was prepared to recommend to the National Assembly a repeal or change in these laws.

As a result of consideration of many plans, the one herewith transmitted to that august body has been worked out. It is, therefore, recommended that the necessary enabling legislation be passed in order that the agreement may be accepted and put into effect without further delay. Since there is no reason for dealing with this Company in a way different from that with others who are equally able and willing to undertake the same obligations, it may be preferable to make the enabling Act broad enough to permit the Executive, if he finds it in the nation's interest to do so, to conclude similar agreements with any other Philippine or American company or a combination of the two, which may be able and willing to make similar guarantees of performance.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon at a banquet tendered in Honor of General James G. Harbord, May 22, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At a banquet tendered in Honor of General James G. Harbord**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, Manila, May 22, 1938]

FRIENDSHIP WITH GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD

We live our lives to fulfill the same ambition, that of doing for our respective countries the best we can, and then we depart. But there is a tie that should bind us always, and that is our friendship which will remain as it has been in life.

General Harbord, Gentlemen:

I am very happy to have with me one of my oldest American friends, when I say this, I do not refer to his age but to the number of years of our friendship.

General Harbord brings back to my mind those happy days of my youth when, with the whole future stretched before me, I was just beginning to find my way. General Harbord then, in a manner, served as my spiritual guide. Another person to whom I am deeply indebted is General Bandholtz. Both Americans exercised a very significant influence on my life. Before I met General Harbord and General Bandholtz, which was after the revolution against the United States, I did not have a very good opinion of Americans. I had enough reasons for maintaining an unfavorable opinion, because they kept me running all over the mountains of Pampanga and Bataan, and it was a very tiresome thing to be running by day and by night. After keeping me going for several months, they confined me to a quiet place for six months, giving me salmon at noon and salmon at night, and protecting me with guards at the door of the nice room where they kept me at rest.

After I had graduated from college and passed my bar examinations, I went to Tayabas, my own province. Up to then, except for the time when I saw the great sire of my friend, General Mac Arthur, and a few other American officers right in one of the rooms of this palace, I had not had any personal relations with any American. In Tayabas, however, I met General Bandholtz. Soon after I had met him, I came to the conclusion that the Americans were not as bad as I had thought them to be. He was kind and courteous, he became deeply interested in my career, and very soon we were friends. From General Bandholtz and through my friendship with him, I learned the American way of thinking and saw the gentlemanly behavior of the American soldier.

General Bandholtz, upon leaving Tayabas, was succeeded by the then Colonel Harbord of the Constabulary. When General Harbord came to the province, I was practising law and getting ready to launch my candidacy for the governorship of Tayabas. I do not know whether General Harbord remembers this. Every American in the province, with the exception of officers of the Constabulary and Lieutenant Hunter Harris of the United States Army, was against my candidacy. The Superintendent of Schools, the District Engineer, and all the school teachers of the province organized a league against my candidacy. I remember that the school principal, a young American, came to my house one night and said: "Quezon, is it true that you want to be a candidate for governor?" I said, "Yes." "Well, I am going to oppose you," he said. "You are too young. It will be better for you to support Mr. Carmona, and two years from now you may be a candidate for governor. I will be your opponent," he went on, "if you run now because we are obliged to support Carmona."

"I have not asked you to give me any advice," I told him, "but I thank you for it, just the same. Only, I want to make it clear that I have made up my mind on one thing: I will be a candidate."

A few days later Colonel Harbord came to see me. We were already acquainted with each other at that time, and he asked me, "Are you going to be a candidate for governor?" "Yes, Colonel," was my immediate reply. "Well," he said, "I do not want to have anything to do with that, but I should like to know your attitude towards the United States. Are you loyal to America?" He was the Chief of Constabulary and, naturally, he was interested in having a governor that would not organize a revolution. "Colonel," I said, "I have taken the oath of allegiance, and I am determined to make my oath good." After that he left and without violating the Civil Service Law or other laws then in force which did not allow colonels of Constabulary to mix in elections, I noticed that an undercurrent which was favorable to me had come out from the Headquarters of Tayabas. Old Hunter Harris—he was the Quartermaster Officer of the regiment in Lucena,—and I became friends. We were both young and merry. We used to go out together. At that time the electors of the governor were not the townspeople. They were the concejales of the towns, and we had to bring them, to Lucena from Marinduque, the coast of Tayabas, and from other places. I needed water transportation. My opponents—Tolentino and Carmona—were rich. They had their ships which brought the concejales to Lucena, and my problem was how to transport my concejales. Somehow or other I succeeded in getting the Army launch to bring the concejales. So the first ones to help me when I turned politician were the officers of the United States Army, and they did it against the regulations of the Government of the Philippines (as far as General Harbord was concerned) and the Federal Government of the United States. This is a historical fact. The Army officers, indirectly in the case of General Harbord and openly in the case of Hunter Harris, made it easy for me to win my election as governor of the Province of Tayabas.

While I was Governor of Tayabas I had occasions to make closer my acquaintance with Colonel Harbord, and I want to say in all earnestness that it was through my dealings with him that I acquired some of the high principles that should guide a man in public life. Perhaps General Harbord will never know how much some of the things he had told, me then and the things I had seen him do, have guided me in succeeding years in determining my course of action whenever a difficult decision was to be made. I want to say also in his presence and in the presence of the people who are gathered here tonight that I owe him a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid, one that cannot be measured in human terms. In my eyes, he stood as a living example of honesty, integrity, a public official who exhibited exceptional love of duty. I had been, for many years, looking forward to the day when I could again greet my old friend, General Harbord, in the Philippines. I had asked him on several occasions to come and visit me here. And when I became President, I went to see him again in his office to tell him that the highest honor he could give me was to come and be my guest in Malacañan.

Once in a while, I become mentally occupied with the question of whether the Philippines has benefited more from its association with the United States or whether it is the United States that has received greater benefits from her association with the Philippines. When I think of; General Pershing, the Commander-in-Chief of the American forces in the World War, General Harbord, the Chief of Staff, General MacArthur—when I think of all these gallant officers of the American Army as the products of the Philippines, I feel that the United States owes a lot to the Philippines. [Applause] These people came here when they were young. They gave to our country the best years of their lives. We Filipinos draw great satisfaction, even pride, in publicly recognizing our debt of gratitude to the Government and people of the United States. But when we say this and translate the sentiment into concrete facts, when we look around and point out to the men who, in behalf of America, have rendered that service to the Filipino people, gentlemen, we cannot overlook the fact that one of those men is Colonel Harbord of the Philippine Constabulary. [Applause] He may not realize, like the good soldier that he is, how much he has done for the Filipinos. If I read aright the mind and the conscience of a soldier, he does his duty without ulterior motives, without evaluating what he is doing, but merely doing what a soldier should do as his duty. It was with that spirit, I am sure, that General Harbord performed his duty in the Philippines. He did not think of himself. As a matter of fact, he will always be to us one of those Americans who have given credit to their country and done well by the Filipino people.

I therefore welcome you, General Harbord, to the hospitable shores of this country that you love so much, in behalf of the people who are your friends forever.

There is one who is not present here tonight. May God keep her! I am sorry she has gone forever. She has won our heart as much as you have. Life is short. There is only one thing certain in this world: that we must all go the same

way she has gone. We live our lives to fulfill the same ambition, that of doing for our respective countries the best we can, and then we depart. But there is a tie that should bind us always, and that is our friendship which will remain as it has been in life.

Gentlemen, I ask you all to drink to the health of General Harbord, the gentleman, the soldier, the friend of the Filipino people. May he soon return to us.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Friendship with General James G. Harbord, May 22, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

FRIENDSHIP WITH GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD

[Delivered at a banquet tendered in honor of General James G.
Harbord, at Malacañan Palace, Manila, May 22, 1938]

General Harbord, Gentlemen:

I am very happy to have with me one of my oldest American friends. When I say this, I do not refer to his age but to the number of years of our friendship.

General Harbord brings back to my mind those happy days of my youth when, with the whole future stretched before me, I was just beginning to find my way. General Harbord then, in a manner, served as my spiritual guide. Another person to whom I am deeply indebted is General Bandholtz. Both Americans exercised a very significant influence on my life. Before I met General Harbord and General Bandholtz, which was after the revolution against the United States, I did not have a very good opinion of Americans. I had enough reasons for maintaining an unfavorable opinion, because they kept me running all over the mountains of Pampanga and Bataan, and it was a very tiresome thing to be running by day and by night. After keeping me going for several months, they confined me to a quiet place for six months, giving me salmon at noon and salmon at night, and protecting me with guards at the door of the nice room where they kept me at rest.

After I had graduated from college and passed my bar examinations, I went to Tayabas, my own province. Up to then, except for the time when I saw the great sire of my friend, General MacArthur, and a few other American officers right in one of the rooms of this palace, I had not had any personal relations with any American. In Tayabas, however, I met General Bandholtz. Soon after I had met him, I came to the conclusion that the Americans were not as bad as I had thought them to be. He was kind and courteous, he became deeply interested in my career, and very soon we were friends. From General Bandholtz and through my friendship with him, I learned the American way of thinking and saw the gentlemanly behavior of the American soldier.

General Bandholtz, upon leaving Tayabas, was succeeded by the then Colonel Harbord of the Constabulary. When General Harbord came to the province, I was practising law and getting ready to launch my candidacy for the governorship of Tayabas. I do not know whether General Harbord remembers this. Every American in the province, with the exception of officers of the Constabulary and Lieutenant Hunter Harris of the United States Army, was against my candidacy. The Superintendent of Schools, the District Engineer, and all the school teachers of the province organized a league against my candidacy. I remember that the school principal, a young American, came to my house one night and said: "Quezon, is it true that you want to be a candidate for governor?" I said, "Yes." "Well, I am going to oppose you," he said. "You are too young. It will be better for you to support Mr. Carmona, and two-years from now you may be a candidate for governor. I will be your opponent," he went on, "if you run now because we are obliged to support Carmona."

"I have not asked you to give me any advice," I told him, "but I thank you for it, just the same. Only, I want to make it clear that I have made up my mind on one thing: I will be a candidate."

A few days later Colonel Harbord came to see me. We were already acquainted with each other at that time, and he asked me, "Are you going to be a candidate for governor?" "Yes, Colonel," was my immediate reply.

"Well," he said, "I do not want to have anything to do with that, but I should like to know your attitude towards the United States. Are you loyal to America?" He was the Chief of Constabulary and, naturally, he was interested in having a governor that would not organize a revolution. "Colonel," I said, "I have taken the oath of allegiance, and I am determined to make my oath good." After that he left and without violating the Civil Service Law or other laws then in force which did not allow colonels of Constabulary to mix in elections, I noticed that an undercurrent which was favorable to me had come out from the Headquarters of Tayabas. Old Hunter Harris—he was the Quartermaster Officer of the regiment in Lucena,—and I became friends. We were both young and merry. We used to go out together. At that time the electors of the governor were not the townspeople. They were the *concejales* of the towns, and we had to bring them to Lucena from Marinduque, the coast of Tayabas, and from other places. I needed water transportation. My opponents—Tolentino and Carmona—were rich. They had their ships which brought the *concejales* to Lucena, and my problem was how to transport my *concejales*. Somehow or other I succeeded in getting the Army launch to bring the *concejales*. So the first ones to help me when I turned politician were the officers of the United States Army, and they did it against the regulations of the Government of the Philippines (as far as General Harbord was concerned) and the Federal Government of the United States. This is a historical fact. The Army officers, indirectly in the case of General Harbord and openly in the case of Hunter Harris, made it easy for me to win my election as governor of the Province of Tayabas.

While I was Governor of Tayabas I had occasions to make closer my acquaintance with Colonel Harbord, and I want to say in all earnestness that it was through my dealings with him that I acquired some of the high principles that should guide a man in public life. Perhaps General Harbord will never know how much some of the things he had told me then and the things I had seen him do, have guided me in succeeding years in determining my course of action whenever a difficult decision was to be made. I want to say also in his presence and in the presence of the people who are gathered here tonight that I owe him a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid, one that cannot be measured in human terms. In my eyes, he stood as a living example of honesty, integrity, a public official who exhibited exceptional love of duty. I had been, for many years, looking forward to the day when I could again greet my old friend, General Harbord, in the Philippines. I had asked him on several occasions to come and visit me here. And when I became President, I went to see him again in his office to tell him that the highest honor he could give me was to come and be my guest in Malacañan.

Once in a while, I become mentally occupied with the question of whether the Philippines has benefited more from its association with the United States or whether it is the United States that has received greater benefits from her association with the Philippines. When I think of General Pershing, the Commander-in-Chief of the American forces in the World War, General Harbord, the Chief of Staff, General MacArthur—when I think of all these gallant officers of the American Army as the products of the Philippines, I feel that the United States owes a lot to the Philippines. [Applause] These people came here when they were young. They gave to our country the best years of their lives. We Filipinos draw great satisfaction, even pride, in publicly recognizing our debt of gratitude to the Government and people of the United States. But when we say this and translate the sentiment into concrete facts, when we look around and point out to the men who, in behalf of America, have rendered that service to the Filipino people, gentlemen, we cannot overlook the fact that one of those men is Colonel Harbord of the Philippine Constabulary. [Applause] He may not realize, like the good soldier that he is, how much he has done for the Filipinos. If I read aright the mind and the conscience of a soldier, he does his duty without ulterior motives, without evaluating what he is doing, but merely doing what a soldier should do as his duty. It was with that spirit, I am sure, that General Harbord performed his duty in the Philippines. He did not think of himself. As a matter of fact, he will always be to us one of those Americans who have given credit to their country and done well by the Filipino people.

I therefore welcome you, General Harbord, to the hospitable shores of this country that you love so much, in behalf of the people who are your friends forever.

There is one who is not present here tonight. May God keep her! I am sorry she has gone forever. She has won our heart as much as you have. Life is short. There is only one thing certain in this world: that we must all go the same way she has gone. We live our lives to fulfill the same ambition, that of doing for our respective countries the best

we can, and then we depart. But there is a tie that should bind us always, and that is our friendship which will remain as it has been in life.

Gentlemen, I ask you all to drink to the health of General Harbord, the gentleman, the soldier, the friend of the Filipino people. May he soon return to us!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on maintenance of Peace and Order in Tarlac and Pampanga, June 1, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND ORDER IN TARLAC
AND PAMPANGA**

[Delivered at a conference with the municipal mayors of Tarlac and
Pampanga, at San Fernando, Pampanga, June 1, 1938]

There have been registered a series of incidents in Pampanga which do not do honor to this province. Laws have been violated here. Persons have employed force and violence to exercise their rights. The Government does not tolerate these abuses and I expect local officials themselves to explain to the people the grave danger such abuses produce.

You may assure the people that it is the purpose of this Administration to do justice to all laborers and I expect the National Assembly to approve laws tending to carry out the principles enunciated in the platform of the party in power, which is to do justice to laborers and curtail abuses to which the poor have been subjected.

I know that we have a peaceful people, ready to comply with their duties and to coöperate with the Administration in carrying out its plans of justice to laborers and the improvement of their lot, but it is also true that there are irresponsible leaders who are inciting these people and I am afraid that these agitations may result in lamentable consequences.

I have refrained from issuing instructions to the Constabulary to use all its forces with a view to dominating the situation. However, if these nightly secret meetings continue in violation of the law and if I find that the tranquillity of the country is endangered, I shall have no other alternative but to order the Constabulary to use force. I can now issue an order concentrating the forces of the Philippine Army in Pampanga, but I want to be informed of the need of such reinforcement.

The Government has the necessary armed forces that can be utilized at any moment to meet any emergency. I am ready to use all the powers of the Government to execute the laws and to prevent the commission of abuses. I want to end the display of force which misguided laborers have been employing.

* * * * *

The trouble with you is that you talk of the Constitution and the constitutionality of an act without understanding what they are all about.^a As the President of the Philip pines I have the power and authority to order the arrest of those people. My first mission as the Chief Executive of this country is to maintain peace and order. And I will maintain peace and order if I have to order the killing of some people to do so.

* * * * *

I wish to make it plain that my administration will do all it can to redress the grievances of workers on the farm, but at the same time I will not tolerate any breach of the peace, especially on the part of subversive agitators who are misleading the ignorant.

I also wish to remind the town mayors of Tarlac and Pampanga that it is their duty and responsibility not only to maintain peace and order at all cost, but also to carry out the policies of my administration.

If I am not able to govern through elective mayors I shall have to do so through appointive ones. The responsibility of governing is mine and no one else's. We have a Constitution that gives me power to govern and I do not want anybody to misinterpret this point.

I want everybody to know my attitude. I want to govern in accordance with the will of the people. I shall respect elective officials, but if the execution of the plans of my administration is obstructed, if for lack of coöperation of those officials elected by the people, I find it impossible to comply with the duties entrusted to me by the Constitution, I shall have to select men who I know will help me. My principal duty is to execute the laws and maintain peace and order in accordance with the Constitution, and I propose to comply with that duty.

As municipal officials, you should make it a point to visit outlying barrios whenever you can, and explain the policies of the Administration to the rural folks so they may not be misled by unprincipled agitators who are always disposed to sow subversive ideas in their minds.

* * * * *

The time has come when the Government must adopt a clear and definite policy in this respect. A landowner who commits abuses and does not treat his laborers justly should be prosecuted. The Government will lose its moral influence over the laborers if they see that it protects those who commit abuses.

Referring to the frequent nightly meetings of which he had been informed beforehand, the President told the mayors that such meetings must be stopped, and that both those who organize and those who attend such meetings should be arrested. When Mayor Rufino Canda of Mexico, a Socialist, heard the President's words, he stood up and asked:

"Would that be constitutional, Mr. President?"

Enraged, the President sprang to his feet and shouted:

"Yes! Why do you ask? Are you a Socialist?"

"Yes, Mr. President," answered Mayor Canda.

Then the President continued as above.

Any landowner has the perfect right to prohibit any person whom he does not like from tilling his land. The courts of justice, the Court of Industrial Relations, and the Department of Labor are the government agencies upon to determine the rights of individuals should a landowner decide to expel an old tenant.

However, pending the determination of the legality of his act, the landowner has the right to seek the protection of the mayor, of the provincial governor, and of the Constabulary to exercise his rights over his property.

The President addressed this to Mayor Leon Paruñgao, of La Paz, Tarlac, who is under administrative investigation for allegedly inciting laborers to rise against property owners.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Social Justice, Labor Unions, and Public Works, June 8, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SOCIAL JUSTICE, LABOR UNIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS

[Delivered at the public plaza, Virac, Catanduanes, June 8, 1938]

Mr. Governor, Mr. Mayor, Assemblyman Vera, Ladies and Gentlemen, my Countrymen:

It gives me a great pleasure to see, for the first time in my life, this magnificent island of Catanduanes and this beautiful town of Virac. Especially, it pleases me immensely to witness this hearty welcome that you have corded me. I am an old politician and I know all the methods used in the Philippines in receiving, when we wish to, a man from other parts of the country who holds a public position. What you have done today, the smiles that I have seen in the faces of the people, old and young, have made my heart beat fast for they have convinced me that even those whom I have never met before think well of the government that I am giving to our country. My friends, I have reached a point in my life where I may truthfully say that I no longer want the powers and privileges that a public position, especially one as high as the one I am occupying, can give. There is no reward that you can give me except the satisfaction of believing that I am doing the best I can for your interest. I want you to know that I have but one purpose in the exercise of the authority and in the performance of the duties of my office—to do justice to the poor and the rich alike. Justice alone can justify the existence of a government. And justice is the first objective of government. It is my hope that every official of this province, from the sub-governor to the mayor, down to the last *teniente del barrio*, will realize that he can coöperate with my administration only by not committing abuses and permitting no one to commit them. The justice of the peace court is the lowest rung in our judiciary, but every justice of the peace occupies what can be called the most important position in the judicial system of the Philippines, for it is to the justice of the peace that the poor can take his grievances, and it is the justice of the peace, by justly performing his duty, who can best convince the people that we have in this country of ours an independent and fair judiciary. I want every official of the Government of the Philippines to realize that his position has been given to him, not for his own welfare but for the purpose of serving the people of this country.

I have come here to let you know the objective of my administration. I have also come to you to tell you that within the means at the disposal of our Government, the National Assembly has started a huge program of public works and of improvement of the public school system in the Philippines. In line with this program, you will have before the arrival of the next term of office of Assemblyman Vera, if you reelect him, a road that will go around this whole island, putting in communication every municipality that will communicate with said province. Before his next term of office shall have expired, there will be no barrio in the Province of Catanduanes without a school building for the girls and boys of that island.

I have not come to advocate the reelection of Assemblyman Vera, but I do want to take advantage of this opportunity which is also my first visit here to tell you that I am very much pleased with the services he has rendered in the National Assembly. *[Applause]* You know that I have not always been a political friend of your assemblyman. I have no doubt that from this very platform Assemblyman Vera must have told you what a terrible man I am. But I don't care about that; I judge men not by their words but by their acts. And I have watched the conduct of Assemblyman Vera in the National Assembly and I am convinced that he is doing his best to serve not only the people of this town but also the people of the Philippines, and that is enough for me.

I have seen and noticed these different placards that you have presented to me. I have particularly observed one which has already disappeared. I don't know where it is now.

(The placard was brought to the President and it read as follows: "Political influence, *compadre* system and bribery should not deprive one of work in the public works.")

I suppose you understand that, don't you? Who prepared that? I want to know what this means. Does mean that in this province political influence, the *compadre* system and bribery play a part when the government officials give work to the people? Is there anyone now who is ready to tell me that he knows and he can prove that an official of this Government has been bribed? If so, let him speak out. I want to know it.

This is a serious charge and no responsible person will make it unless he can prove it. This is a charge against the whole government of Catanduanes and no one, unless he could prove it, should have made that charge in the presence of the President of the Philippines. Now, I want to say something in connection with the public works. I understand that that placard has been prepared by the labor union of this province. Now, gentlemen, I am a friend of labor. I have no objection to the workingmen organizing themselves and forming a union. But I want to call the attention of the laboring people that they must beware of those who organize them into a union. It is my hope that labor unions will be organized by laborers themselves, but that their leaders will be taken from amongst those who actually do work like the laborers, so that when the labor leader speaks for the interest of the organization, he speaks for his own interest also. Sometimes the dangers in labor organization come when self-appointed person lead a labor movement, not because they are interested in the workingmen and women, not because their hearts go out to those who have to work in order to make their living, but because they are interested in securing something for themselves through the organization they have formed. The workingmen in the Philippines should have confidence in their local officials and go to them for redress of their grievances. And I want to say to the public officials not only of this town and of this province, but also those of other towns and provinces all over the Philippines that it is their first duty to see to it that the man who works gets his proper reward. We shall never win the confidence of our people in our Government until, by deed, we prove to the people that we are interested in safeguarding their interests and in protecting their rights.

Now, as to public works. The Government is the one responsible for carrying out public works. The Government deals directly with the workingmen. The Government will not use labor leaders to secure workingmen, and the workingmen need not go to any leader in order to secure work. I have given instructions to all the district engineers to give work to the person who needs the job regardless of the political party to which he belongs. *[Applause]* I expect the engineers to carry out faithfully those instructions. I have with me the Director of Public Works and I expect him to make the men under his bureau comply with those instructions. I expect the subgovernor, the mayors, and the *tenientes del barrio*, to see to it that the people in their respective municipalities and barrios get work when they need it. But you cannot get work by threatening the Government. You cannot obtain work by making an irresponsible denunciation against everybody. If you have a complaint and you can prove it, don't be afraid of anybody, present it. But if you are only mad at some body for personal reasons, don't make any noise. If your resentment is only political and not based on facts, keep your peace until the next election. When you have a reason to complain, then present your complaint.

In the past the amount of money which the provincial government could spend for these public works was rather limited. It was especially true with this little Subprovince of Catanduanes. I don't suppose you have had much money before, and, therefore, it would not surprise me if somebody who wanted work, did not get it. At the last session of the National Assembly, however, we appropriated a large sum of money for your roads and I am going to tell the engineer to give work to those who want work, especially to those who really work. But we want men who will work and not men who will talk.

Now, my friends. I have talked more than I expected to on this visit. I want to assure you that we expect, during the next three years, to provide your island with the improvement that you have never had before and perhaps never dreamt of. *[Applause]* You know I come from a very poor town myself. Therefore, I know what the people of those poor towns feel when they see that their community has very little of the comforts that other communities have. It gives me, therefore, great satisfaction to be able to tell you that the day is nearing when your hope to see this province progressive will be realized. *[Applause]*

Ladies and gentlemen. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this generous and hearty reception you have given me. May God bless you all. [*Applause*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the new policy on education, public works, and clean and honest Government

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the new policy on education, public works, and clean and honest Government**

[Delivered in front of the Provincial Building in Tacloban, Leyte, June 10, 1938]

Mr. Governor, People of Leyte:

I am happy to be with you here, but I am sorry that you have to get wet in order to hear me. I will not detain you long for we are in the rain.

I know that the people of this province are informed of the purpose of my administration; namely, to give our country a good, clean, and honest government. And I feel sure that of the provinces of the Archipelago that are well governed, the Province of Leyte is certainly one of them. *[Applause]* I have no doubts that here you have a governor who does not intend to use his office to promote his own interest. Governor Martinez did not seek this position; he was requested by your leaders to serve the province.

I have a man of my absolute confidence who hails from Leyte; that man is your former representative and senator; he is now one of my advisers, but he will very soon leave his post for a better one. I am speaking of Judge Enage. *[Applause]* There is no man in the Government of the Philippines other than Judge Enage in whose integrity, honesty, and sense of justice I place greater confidence. I know that in the past you did not always vote for Judge Enage. But I have known Judge Enage in the Senate, and I know that he is one of the best public servants we have in the Philippines. Judge Enage has never abused my confidence in him to prosecute any man from the Province of Leyte. He has never abused that confidence to promote his friends if they did not deserve the promotion. I, therefore, feel certain that you must be having a good government here now because Judge Enage tells me so.

I want to take this opportunity to tell your public officials, from the governor down to the last policeman, that it is my hope and expectation that they will cordially cooperate with me in my efforts to give our country the best government that it has ever had. Particularly, I want them to make the poor man, the man who lives in the barrio, feel that under our Government his rights are as much protected as those of the most powerful or the richest man in the Philippines. So I want every mayor, every councilor, every *teniente del barrio*, to tell the people that if they have any grievances to make, they must present them to the proper authorities for correction and redress. Particularly, I want the justices of the peace to realize that although they are the lowest officials in the judiciary, yet they hold the most important position. The common man in the Philippines, the man who lives in the far distant barrio, will know whether this is a just government or not only by the manner in which the justices of the peace perform their duties. I want every justice of the peace to know and feel that he owes his position to nobody in particular. It is true that I listened to the recommendations of those who knew possibly the best for appointment to these positions, but I did not appoint the justices of the peace in order that they may serve the interest of those who recommended them, but in order that they may do justice to the people.

I know that in the past your justices of the peace were political leaders. Now, there is no use denying that; I know it; I have been in politics for thirty years. I have forgiven and forgotten every justice of the peace who mixed in politics in the past because that was a fault everybody committed. But we are starting a new book, and, from now on, no justice of the peace must mix in politics except at the risk of losing his job. I want the justice of the peace to have the confidence of the people. I want him to make the people feel that they can go to him and obtain justice. The justice of the peace who does his duties well does not have to kiss the hand of anybody. The justice of the peace who performs his duties impartially, does not need to have political friends. His own protection will be the performance of his duties. But the justice of the peace who mixes in politics and decides questions in favor of his relatives or friends regardless of the merits of the cases at bar, cannot be saved even by the biggest man in the Philippines. *[Applause]*

I say the same thing about every other government official of the Philippines. Everybody is my friend, but nobody is my particular friend. Every one who complies with his duty is my friend, but nobody who violates the law or neglects to do his duty is my friend. [Applause] I have taken the oath to enforce the laws, and I will enforce them regardless of everybody. [Applause] My duty is to serve the people and the country, to lay the foundations of a Philippines that will live forever and be inhabited by a people who love peace and are prosperous and happy.

Fortunately, we have now at our disposal sufficient funds to start on our program of public works. At its last session, the National Assembly appropriated a vast sum for the construction of our national highways. For the province of Leyte some eight hundred thousand pesos will be spent. I am, therefore, confident in the hope that the people who want to work can be given work in the construction of these roads, and it is my order that the people be given work without considering their political affiliation. [Applause] Those who need work, and want to work, will be given work. This is the instruction that I am giving now to the district engineer of Leyte; he is the official responsible to the National Government in the construction of roads. I expect him to consult the governor and the town mayors in order that he will know the men who need the work most. I want him also to supervise his *capataces* for I don't want them to have their proteges. Above all, I don't want graft in the public works, and I want the governor, the engineer, and every official of this province, to go after the men who are doing some kind of connivance in these public works in order to defraud the Government.

We are going to construct more public buildings, open more schools, and employ additional teachers.

("Your Excellency." shouted a man from the crowd.)

What is your question?

("Your Excellency: in 1934 the Municipal Council of Tacloban imposed a tuition fee for the intermediate grades. In 1937, although the Municipal Council abolished the tuition fee, yet the Division Superintendent of Schools and the Supervising Teacher of Tacloban have been collecting the fee despite the fact that they have no authority from the Municipal Council.")

I have here with me the Director of Education and he tells me that it has not been abolished because the plan of the Municipal Council to abolish it met with the disapproval of the Bureau of Education. I want to be interpreted correctly in this matter. The complaint of the gentleman, on behalf of the Parents' Association, is that the school authorities are collecting a tuition fee for the intermediate schools. He says that in 1934 the Municipal Council of Tacloban approved a resolution imposing the tuition fee. But, he says further, in 1937 the Council approved another resolution prohibiting the collection of the tuition fee. Now, his complaint is that the Superintendent of Schools continues to collect the tuition fee despite the resolution adopted by the Municipal Council. The Superintendent of Schools claims, and I think he is right, that this last resolution of the Municipal Council of Tacloban had no effect because it was not approved by the Bureau of Education. Now it makes no difference whether or not the Superintendent of Schools has the right to do that. The practice is: if the Municipal Council of Tacloban does not want the tuition fee because the Council can appropriate money from the municipal funds for all the intermediate grades, I will tell the Superintendent of Schools right now not to collect those fees any more. But if the Municipal Council does not want to appropriate the money, and it does not want also the tuition fee collected from the children, I will tell the Superintendent of Schools to close all the intermediate schools in this town.

Now, what do you want me to do? I want the Mayor of Tacloban to answer this question: Do you have enough money to support the intermediate schools here?

(The Mayor: "No, Your Excellency.")

Do you want the intermediate schools to be kept open?

(The Mayor: "Yes, Your Excellency, but we cannot do that because we have no money.")

Do you want them open or not?

(The Mayor: "We would like them, but the Municipal Treasurer says we have no money.")

Call the Municipal Treasurer.

(Addressing the Municipal Treasurer). Can the municipal government pay for all the intermediate schools here?

(The Municipal Treasurer: "Well . . .")

That is enough.

I want to tell you this: the National Government is going to assume the responsibility of maintaining the primary schools. Next year we will appropriate the necessary amount for the opening of primary schools in every barrio, and the National Government will pay the expenses of maintaining the schools including the salaries of the teachers. The intermediate schools will be under the responsibility of the municipal government. In other words, from now on, the National Government will pay every cent spent for the primary schools, while the municipal government will be fully responsible for the maintenance of the intermediate schools.

Now, let the people decide what they want: if the municipal government has sufficient income to open all the intermediate schools, it should appropriate the money for the purpose; if it does not have enough money, the people must pay the tuition fee in order to have the intermediate schools. Now, you people decide whether or not you want to pay the tuition fee; if you don't want to pay the fee, close your schools; if you want to pay, keep them open.

Well, I suppose the tuition fee will not be obligatory. The tuition fee will be paid by the parents of children who want to study in the intermediate schools. But there is one exception to that. If a poor boy or girl proves to be unusually bright and good, the National Government will assume the responsibility for his or her education in the intermediate schools. I can say the same thing now about the high schools. By this, I mean that the academic high schools will no longer be supported by the Government. If anybody wants his child to acquire an academic instruction in the high school, then he must pay the necessary tuition fee.

I will explain to you now the reason for this new policy of the Government. Up to the present, the Government has been committed to the policy of opening all the primary, intermediate, and high schools; but, because there is not enough money to enable us to open primary schools in all the barrios, we have not been able to educate all the boys and girls who wish to attain even only a primary education. The result is that today there are still many illiterate children and grown-up boys and girls. Again, while we have complete primary and intermediate schools in the towns and high schools in the provincial capitals, yet we ordinarily have only one or two grades in the far-distant barrios. As a result of this policy many of the sons of the poor have not gone to any school at all.

So the policy of the National Government now is to open primary schools in all places so that every child of school age, particularly the sons of the poor who live in the farthest barrios, can acquire a primary education. We don't want to deprive the child of the poor people at least of the knowledge necessary to enable him to read and understand his rights and duties. Now, after every poor boy and girl has gone through the primary school, the question of whether or not he should go to the intermediate school is entirely left to the municipal government. Then the question of entitling him to a higher education becomes the responsibility of the provincial government.

But I don't want these boys and girls to take the secondary instruction without learning something useful in their daily life. We want to establish a secondary instruction that will be useful to the boy and girl who receive it. Our aim is to increase the people who make their living by producing something that will enrich both themselves and their country.

This is the present situation. Some poor boy finishes the high school course, but he does not know what to do except, perhaps, to be a clerk. He wants to be a clerk, but he can't find a clerical job. This poor boy worked for four

years to earn a secondary education; his parents sacrificed much in order to get him that instruction. Many of them still follow the profession of law or medicine, believing that in the end they could depend on a job for their livelihood. That means another six or seven years more of hard work and sacrifice for their parents. But what is the result? He leaves the university, but he cannot do any work. He has no job; he can't find one. You have here a disappointed boy with very unhappy parents. They see that their sacrifice did not amount to anything; it did not help their boy or girl after several years in college.

In a final effort to land a job, the poor boy asks a recommendation from the town mayor; he goes to his governor or assemblyman for the same purpose. Then, everybody promises him a job but nobody gives him work. Before the election all promised him a job, but after the election everybody forgot entirely the promise. And the boy or his parents believe that the politician has deceived them. Perhaps, he was recommended to the President of the Philippines; but, let me tell you, the President of the Philippines does not have many jobs to give! Now that poor, disappointed boy becomes a demagogue. He starts his career by attacking everybody in his speeches. He is disappointed; he is unhappy; he thinks that he is not being justly treated.

Well, we have to change that policy. We must educate our boys and girls to be good fanners, good manufacturers, good producers. We have here a big and rich country. All that we need is to know how to make this country produce more.

I will tell you now why Japan, as a nation, is turning to be a success. Japan is successful not because she has a big army or navy. Japan is a very poor country; even the mountains are cultivated. If the Japanese people were to depend only upon their land, they would starve. But the Japanese does not live only on the land; he lives on what he produces through the many industries in Japan. And Japan is competing successfully with Europe and America. The reason for this is that in Japan every man and woman is taught some industry in the school. If the Japanese works in the farm, he makes good because he learned what he is doing. If a carpenter, the Japanese turns out to be an efficient one because he studied the technique in school. In fishing, the Japanese is an efficient fisherman because he studied that work in school. Do the Japanese come here in Leyte to fish? ("Yes, Your Excellency!" answered the crowd.) Now, you can't compete with the Japanese! Why? Because you do not know to fish the modern way. You know that if we could the Filipinos how to fish we could make this country very rich just from our fish resources. You find out how much a Japanese makes when he goes out fishing, and you will discover to your amazement that he makes more money than a poor Filipino lawyer. Some of our lawyers can hardly make one hundred pesos in a month; but the Japanese fishermen who come here make more than that sum in the same period.

This is the policy that we will adopt. We will teach our countrymen to be good fishermen, good carpenters, good farmers, and good producers, to enable them to make more money than the ordinary lawyer.

Now, my friends, I have talked more than I expected to. I want you to know that it is my desire to extend all possible help and coöperation to your governor and Board. Leyte is one of the promising provinces of the Philippines. It is unfortunate that one of your products here—hemp—has gone down in price. In its last session, the National Assembly passed a law designed to help the hemp industry. Although I am not sure that the bill will remedy your situation, yet I will approve it in an effort to do something to help the hemp industry in the Philippines. We must do something for this very important industry. I want you to feel certain that if possible I will do all I can to bring about a relief to this industry.

My friends, I am happy to see you here, and goodbye to all.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1939). *Messages of the President* (Vol. 4, Prt. 1). Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Speech of President Quezon on Non-partisanship in the Government and Government Policies, June 10, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Non-partisanship in the Government and Government Policies**

[Delivered in Catbalogan, Samar, June 10, 1938]

NON-PARTISANSHIP IN THE GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES

I want to do away with partisanship in the government, that kind of partisanship which protects friends even if they are guilty or prosecutes enemies even if they are innocent.

Officials in a democracy deserve more respect, and are entitled to a greater cooperation on the part of the people, than those in a monarchy or an autocracy, for when you respect your officials in a democracy you are showing your respect for your own people.

Don't wait for any manna; we can only progress if we exert efforts.

I have asked the men who are carrying those placards to stay because I want to know who are responsible for them. I want to know who wrote their wordings or caused them to be written. Every one of those placards contains a charge, a very serious charge, against the governor. The charges are presented to me, the President of the Philippines, in a public meeting, and I cannot ignore them. It is my duty to locate the person presenting these charges and to ask him to prove them. Now, I ask the question: Who is responsible for those placards? ("The Catbalogan Federation of Labor," shouted a man in the crowd). Who is the man? ("Alejandro Cui," was the answer). Let him come up. (Then some one said Cui was not present).

I am going to appoint Judge (Francisco) Enage, who is with me now, to investigate those charges. He is a man on whose impartiality and fairness I can entirely depend. If these charges are proven I shall take action against the governor; if they are not, I will instruct the provincial fiscal to prosecute those who made the charges.

I welcome the presentation of charges against government officials. In fact, one of the purposes of my visit to the provinces is to find out whether the officials of the Government are performing their duties or they are committing abuses. I am determined to have in our country a government that will do justice to everybody. I am determined to punish all public officials who commit abuses. I want every government official to know that the authority given him has been granted for the purpose of serving the people and not maltreating them.

I want to do away with partisanship in the government, that kind of partisanship which protects friends even if they are guilty or prosecutes enemies even if they are innocent. I want to prove to the world that in a democracy it is possible to have a fair and just government without any consideration of politics. And let every official of the Government of the Philippines beware of his conduct, for he who does not cooperate with me in my desire to show that democracy can be efficient and fair, will suffer for it. That is what I want to say to the governor and to every mayor, councilor, teniente del barrio, policeman, and official of the National Government in the Province of Samar.

Now, I want to tell the people this much: the officials of this Government are chosen by you, by a majority of the people. It is, therefore, the duty of every citizen after every election is over, to respect the authority of the man who won in the election whether he belongs to his party or not, and at the same time to offer him his cooperation. There

are those who believe that in a democracy the government officials are not to be respected. There are those who think that when you speak of the sovereignty of the people, you mean that government officials deserve no respect at all. Now, the officials in a democracy deserve more respect, and are entitled to a greater cooperation on the part of the people, than those in a monarchy or an autocracy, for when you respect your officials in a democracy you are showing your respect for your own people.

When the Chief Executive of the Philippines was an appointive governor-general, you respected him and obeyed his lawful orders because he was a lawful official. He was a lawful official vested with authority and power under the law that entitled him to your respect and obedience. But, now, in place of that governor-general, you have a Chief Executive who owes you his office. I am your Chief Executive; I am entitled to your respect and obedience because I am, under the Constitution, the highest authority of the land. Inasmuch as in my person I carry the representation of the nation, therefore, I am entitled to twice a greater respect and obedience from you than my predecessors. What I have said of myself as the Chief Executive of the nation, I say of your governor here. He was elected by you; to be sure, by the majority of the people of this province. Such being the case, it is the duty of the minority to recognize his authority.

Now, if those charges were made due to political differences only, I want to tell you that the author of those placards has committed a crime not only against Governor Abrigo but also against the Province of Samar. So, I welcome those charges if they are true, for I want to punish the official who betrays his trust. But, from the bottom of my heart, I condemn the men responsible for those placards if what they contain is false, for they have given evidence of their lack of sense of responsibility and patriotism, and they have also shown themselves to be unworthy members of this community.

Well, so much for those placards; they can disappear now if they want to. Judge Enage will come back here to investigate the charges, and the man who can talk for the labor organization can present his charges and his witnesses.

Now, I want to say something about the rice that is being sold to the men working in the construction of roads. The governor says that they may have something to eat. I believe that should not have been done, it is not a question of whether the Government has made or is realizing a profit in selling rice or not. Even if it is true that it has, and I suppose that up to the present time that is true, nevertheless, it should not have been done that way. But I can say that that was not the fault of your governor. He tells me that he has not been given the authority he asked for, to enable the provincial treasurer to send rice to the camp.

I visited some of these new road projects; I found that some roads are constructed up on the mountains, far from any town. I saw some workingmen go to the place of work carrying the rice on their shoulders. I told Director (Vicente) Fragante (of Public Works), who is with me here, that that was unfair to the workingmen. Those poor men should not be required to carry their own food on their own shoulder. So, I instructed him to establish camps in places where they are building roads through the mountains,

That must also be done here in Samar; they should have camps for the laborers, and the Government should supply them with government rice which sells cheaper than that sold by Chinese merchants. If the provincial treasurer cannot buy rice at a low price, then, from here I shall order the NARIC to send some rice. I don't want those men working in the construction of roads to pay a high price for their rice. Those men are poor, and they ought to pay as little as possible for what they eat. Of course, as I have already said, if the National Government did not authorize the provincial treasurer to do that, then, it was not the fault of either the provincial treasurer or the governor. The governor did what he thought was proper so that the men who were working there would not die of hunger. But if the governor had entered into a connivance with the Chinese merchants, he should be punished.

Right now, I authorize the provincial treasurer to send rice to all the places where roads are under construction or in towns where the people cannot buy the cereal. The money should be taken from the fund appropriated for public works. And the price charged the workingmen should be exactly what the Government pays for that rice. If the Chinese merchants here are selling their rice at a high price, I will fill the next boat that comes from Manila with rice

that is cheaper than theirs. If these merchants want to sell their rice to the Government, they must do so at the price of the NARIC.

All right, now, I want to tell you that we are spending a lot of money in Samar. About two million pesos will be spent for roads in this province. All these years, Samar has been a wilderness except for the towns. You have had no means of communication except small boats on a sea that is sometimes very rough. This becomes more pitiful if we read that every typhoon in the Philippines starts from Samar. When I read all these weather reports, I wonder why there are people still living in Samar. But, in the next three years, I expect the people of Samar to communicate with one another without the need of defying the ocean for there will be roads.

Now, I don't want you to thank me for that. I have not done that yet. I only recommended a program of road construction to the National Assembly. The Assembly may or may not approve of it. Therefore, in the last resort, the credit will go to the National Assembly, and as far as the Province of Samar is concerned, I want to tell you frankly that the gentlemen who have given you these roads are Assemblymen Azanza, Tancinco, and Bocar. Of course, you are also particularly fortunate in the fact that Marabut, the man who holds the key to the National Treasury, is from Samar. [Applause] Marabut is very strict about spending the public funds; but I have noticed that if the expenses are for Samar he is blind, he never sees the figures. Marabut has the duty of telling me whether the budget is balanced or not. He always protests when a contemplated expenditure is going to unbalance the budget; but when the added expenditure is for Samar, he finds some way of balancing the budget.

Well, gentlemen, I am no fool, and Marabut cannot deceive me. I am going to tell you why I am impartially in your favor. It is not because I am swayed by either Marabut, Azanza, Bocar, or Tancinco, but because the National Government has been quite unfair to the Province of Samar in the past. You have here a great island, an island that, as I said before, suffers from typhoons almost yearly. If there is an island in the Philippines that needs roads, it is the Island of Samar because your ocean is very dangerous. Yet you do not have roads. It is time that Samar should have roads, and whenever there is a necessity for money from the treasury I will help Marabut or your Assemblymen to get it.

In education, a new day has also dawned. We are going to have schools in every barrio. I have told you already what the Government today will do to help you. Now, I am going to tell what you should do in order that you may continue to deserve the help of the Government. It is your duty to be faithful, orderly, and good citizens. It is equally your duty to comply with your obligations as citizens. That means that you have to pay your taxes. But you must not believe that you can get money from the Government all the time, even if you do not pay your taxes, for what the Government has is the money paid by the people. There was only one time when the people subsisted not through their efforts but through the manna that came from heaven. The Old Testament says that when the Chosen People went to the Promised Land they were given manna for forty days and nights. Now, my countrymen, God is not going to give us anything to eat unless we work for it. Don't wait for any manna; we can only progress if we exert efforts.

I don't believe I want to say anything more to you. I hope that the officials of this province are going to do their duties well. I hope also that the people will comply with their obligations, respect their officials and cooperate with them.

In particular, I want the justices of the peace to be fair and impartial in the performance of their duties. I don't want the justices of the peace to mix in politics. Neither do I want them to be the instrument of any political party. The justices of the peace should realize that they are occupying a very important position. Their position and the responsibility and duty that go with it demand that they render justice to the common man. As long as a justice of the peace performs his duties impartially, he need not fear anybody. No one in the Philippines can do him harm as long as he does his duties. But a dishonest justice of the peace—nay, a partial justice of the peace,—cannot be protected by anybody. Let us have a good government, my dear countrymen. Let us have a peaceful and prosperous people.

Just one more word and I will be through. I want to say to you that I have received the cordial cooperation of your Assemblymen in the execution of my policies. I hope that the next National Assembly would be composed of men

who would render me and my administration the cordial cooperation and support that the present members of the National Assembly have rendered.

Now, one last word. The governor says that they have prepared a banquet for me. I thank them for that. I thank the people of this town and province who have made a sacrifice to have that banquet, for me. But I have sent a telegram to all the governors that I do not want banquets, because I do not favor every visit of a public official from Manila to cost money to the officials in the provinces. Sometimes they pay for this entertainment from their own pocket; at other times they pay from the provincial funds with the permission of the Secretary of the Interior. Well, I do not want them to use their own money or the money of the province. I am going to stop that practice; so I am going to show Governor Abrigo that when I say something I mean it. Therefore, I thank him for the banquet, but I am not going to attend it. In my absence, they can drink to my health if they wish to.

I am thankful to you for the warm reception you have given me. I am thankful to those beautiful girls who gave me these beautiful flowers. /Long applause/

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on hemp industry and government policies, June 12, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On hemp industry and government policies**

[Delivered at the public plaza in Maasin, Leyte, June 12, 1938]

HEMP INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES

I am for the proletariat, but I am not a communist. I am in favor of the proletariat because as you increase the buying power of the masses, you multiply enormously the wealth of the country.

The Government of the Philippines cannot give you wealth even if it wants to. The Government of the Philippines cannot give you knowledge even if it wants to. But the Government of the Philippines if it wants to, and if the officials of the Government are honest, sincere, and patriotic, can give you justice and a good, honest, and decent government.

I want the governors, the mayors, the councilors, the tenientes del barrio, and every man with authority to always remember that their authority has been given to them not to promote their own personal interest but to serve the people who elected them. And when I say "to serve the people," I don't mean to serve only the people who voted for them. They have to serve every citizen whether he voted for them or not.

It is more important that a justice of the peace should win the confidence of the people through his fairness and sense of justice than that the members of the Supreme Court of the Philippines should do so. * * * If the justice of the peace is fair in performing his duties, the poor people of the Philippines will have faith in our Government.

Mr. Governor, Friends of Maasin:

I know the reason why my friend, Assemblyman Oppus, has requested Assemblyman Tan to be my interpreter. Oppus is a great orator in English, in Spanish and, of course, in Visaya. And yet he does not want to be my interpreter. Do you know why? Because he wants me to speak well of him. Well, I am going to disappoint Oppus because I am not going to say anything about him. I don't have to speak of Oppus; he is from your town, and you know him from childhood. It would be presumptuous on my part to speak of him to you. What Oppus is as a man, you know better than I. What Oppus is as an assemblyman from your district, you know perhaps as much as I do. What Oppus is as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the National Assembly, I know more than you do, and as such chairman I can tell you that I have found in Assemblyman Oppus a man who has sincerely, cordially, loyally, and devotedly cooperated with the policies of my administration. And I want to take advantage of this opportunity of a visit to his town to give public testimony of his valuable services as chairman of that committee.

Assemblyman Oppus has kept asking me since long ago to come and visit Maasin. It has been also long ago when Assemblyman Tan, my nice friend, at present interpreter, invited me to visit Ormoc. The members of the Assembly from this coast of the Province of Leyte have wanted me to visit you long ago. This is my first time to enjoy the pleasure and privilege of seeing the towns on this coast. But I hope I am not telling you anything new when I say that even before I landed on this beautiful shore, this part of the Province of Leyte had been already dear to my heart. Ever since I exercised some power in the Government, I have contributed greatly to the improvement and

progress of the towns on this coast. I had something to do in giving you a court here, and I have something to do in giving you better means of communication. At the last session of the National Assembly that body, which has the exclusive authority and power to appropriate the funds of the National Government, appropriated large sums of money for this province and for Samar, which in the past had not been particularly favored by the National Government. Aside from the fact that roads in themselves constitute the best means of promoting the material development of a country, at this particular time appropriations for roads and public works for Leyte are of great significance in that you need employment because of the bad price of hemp. These appropriations will provide employment for the poor people of this province. I have given instructions to the Bureau of Public Works to start these projects right away. But that will not solve your problem. Your problem today is to find some means of helping the hemp industry to get a better price. I am afraid that this is a very hard problem to solve. The National Assembly, owing to the efforts of the assemblymen hailing from the provinces where hemp is produced, has authorized the use of several million pesos for the purpose of helping the hemp industry. I am not sure—in fact I have very serious doubts—whether with this appropriation the corporation that is to be created under the provisions of this law will give the result that many expect. However, I am going to sign that bill, and I am going to organize that corporation because I want to try and see whether this means, which the National Assembly has conceived of to help the hemp industry, will be successful. We may lose a few million pesos if that method fails but it will be worth trying because the hemp industry, in my opinion, is the most important industry in the Philippines. It is much more important than the sugar industry; it is as important at least as the copra and rice industries. The sugar industry, by its very nature, tends to accumulate money in the hands of a few and leave very little to the workingmen. The owners of the sugar centrals make more money than the owners of the land, and the owners of the land make much more money than the men who work the land. Generally, in the sugar industry, the land is owned by a few individuals. On the other hand, in the hemp industry, with very few exceptions, the land is divided among small landowners who work on the land themselves. In this way the benefits from the hemp industry, when the industry is prosperous, extend to more people than do the benefits from the sugar industry.

My friends, my well-known sympathy for the masses of our people, my desire that the wealth of the country be not accumulated in the hands of a few individuals, but distributed among the great masses of the population, are not only due to a human sentiment that makes my heart go out to the poor; they are also due to a realistic view of what is best in the long run for the nation as a whole. I am for the proletariat, but I am not a communist. I am in favor of the proletariat because as you increase the buying power of the masses, you multiply enormously the wealth of the country. I am going to give you an illustration of local appeal. Suppose in the town of Maasin you had one or two millionaires and the rest of the people had nothing, no property, and earned only very low wages. Do you think that the merchants could make any profits? Do you think that they could make business prosper in this town? Of course, not. The millionaire, no matter how rich he is, has very limited needs even if he wants to throw his money away, he can not have as many clothes as all the clothes that the twenty thousand people of Maasin need. He cannot eat, either in quantity or in value, as much as the twenty thousand here can eat. He cannot spend for his personal and family needs as much as the twenty thousand poor people in Maasin can spend. Give those twenty thousand people money and you will see what they will buy. Business will prosper. That, however, is only secondary to the most important consideration of all, which is that every human being is entitled to live as a human being.

Well, that is the advantage of the hemp industry. If the price of hemp is good, those people who own small lots can make money, be prosperous relatively, and contented and happy. Therefore, I say again, although I am not sure that this bill which has been passed by the National Assembly will really bring relief to the hemp industry, I will sign it and run the risk of losing millions of pesos in an effort to help the people of the Philippines who are dedicated to the hemp industry.

In two ways at least, I believe that this law will be beneficial. For one thing the corporation can buy the hemp directly from the farmers themselves, and thus offer competition to the middlemen,—those merchants who are exploiting the farmers. Then there is another thing that we can do through this corporation. The freight rate on hemp from Manila to Europe or America is very high. This corporation, after buying a sufficient quantity of hemp, could export it directly. By getting its own ships the corporation would save in transportation expenses, which would redound to the benefit of the farmer himself.

I have spoken to you of things—roads and the hemp industry—that affect your material well-being. Now I want to speak to you on things that affect your moral contentment. Thanks to the excise tax on oil, the Government has been

in a position to appropriate large amounts of money for roads, and it will be in a position to appropriate large amounts of money for school buildings. This excise tax on oil is of temporary character. For the maintenance of roads, and for the maintenance of schools, we must depend on our own taxes at home. The National Government is going to assume responsibility for the maintenance of primary schools exclusive of the intermediate schools. But so far we do not have enough money yet from our income to maintain these primary schools and to meet the yearly increase in these schools. For the extension of the schools this year alone, I was forced to suspend the money appropriated by the National Assembly because we do not have enough money to keep open all the schools that were opened last year. It would be illogical to open new schools if we could not keep the old ones open. Well, now we can open new schools and keep the old ones open if the members of the National Assembly, like your representatives, Oppus and Tan, want to do it; it is all in their hands. I have recommended to the National Assembly, in its last session, the increase in the taxes paid by the rich, and if those taxes are levied you will have money for primary schools. The income tax in the Philippines is very low. A man, for instance, who receives an annual income of thirty thousand pesos, pays less than 5 per cent a year from that thirty thousand. Is there anybody in Maasin who has an income of thirty thousand a year? I suppose everyone of you believes that nobody has a right to get thirty thousand a year. Do you know that we have persons who have each an income of one million pesos a year and who pay only a few thousand pesos in the form of tax to the Government? Now, tell me, what do you think a man can do with a one-million-peso income a year? Don't you believe that we ought to take from that man at least one hundred thousand pesos to give to the schools for the boys and girls of the poor? We are not even doing that much. It is very fair that a man who gets too much income should pay part of it for the support of the Government, schools, and the roads. So if you want to have more schools, you tell Oppus to vote for those laws, and if he does not vote for them don't reelect him.

I have suspended the expenditure of the appropriation for school extension in order that the people in the provinces may ask their assemblymen to vote for those new tax bills at the extra session. I am telling you now that unless your assemblymen approve those new tax bills there will be no extension schools. Make them do it and you will have extension classes. We have to have more schools, we have to give to every boy and girl, no matter how poor their parents, an opportunity to have at least the rudiments of education that every man and woman should have.

Roads and schools are important, but there is something more important still than roads and schools and good price of hemp, and that is honesty, fairness, and justice in the Government. I am visiting the provinces in order to tell the people that I expect every Government official to comply with his duties to protect the people from abuse, and principally to avoid the commission of abuses on the part of the officials of the Government. The Government of the Philippines cannot give you wealth even if it wants to. The Government of the Philippines cannot give you knowledge even if it wants to. But the Government of the Philippines if it wants to, and if the officials of the Government are honest, sincere, and patriotic, can give you justice and a good, honest, and decent government. I want the officials of the Government to realize this sacred duty that they have toward our people. I want the governors, the mayors, the councilors, the tenientes del barrio, and every man with authority to always remember that their authority has been given to them not to promote their aim personal interest but to serve the people who elected them. And when I say "to serve the people," I don't mean to serve only the people who voted for them. They have to serve every citizen whether he voted for them or not. I have been a candidate of the Nacionalista Party; I have won as the candidate of the Nacionalista Party; I am the President of the Philippines. It is my sworn duty to exercise my powers in the interest of all the people of the Philippines, not in the interest alone of the Nacionalista Party. And if my party is aware of its responsibility, it will be the first to be proud of the fact that the President of the Philippines is not serving the Nacionalista Party but is serving the Philippines. What I say of myself as the President of the Philippines, I say of the governors, of the mayors, and of all the officials of the Government.

One word with reference to the justices of the peace, and I shall be through. The justices of the peace in the past had been political leaders; the justices of the peace in the future must not be political leaders. It is more important that a justice of the peace should win the confidence of the people through his fairness and sense of justice than that the members of the Supreme Court of the Philippines should do so. As far as the people in general are concerned, they do not care what the Supreme Court is; they never get their cases to the Supreme Court. But the man in the remotest village knows what a justice of the peace is, and knows that the justice of the peace has the power to decide his little question, and that he must go to the justice of the peace. If the justice of the peace is not fair to him, that poor man has no other recourse. That poor man will feel that the Government is not fair to him. If the justice of the peace is fair in performing his duties, the poor people of the Philippines will have faith in our Government.

With very few exceptions, I appointed most of the justices of the peace upon the recommendation of the members of the National Assembly from the district to which that court belongs. But I told every member of the National Assembly that I had accepted his recommendation upon the ground that I have the right to assume that a member of the Assembly is fully aware of his responsibility as a member of that body, and that he has recommended to me a man not because he is his friend but because he believes that that man will do his duty honestly and justly as justice of the peace.

Now, I want to tell the justices of the peace that while the members of the National Assembly may have had the chance to recommend them and secure their appointment, the members of the National Assembly will not be able to save them if they do not perform their duty. If a justice of the peace from the district of Assemblyman Oppus should prove to be a crook,—he may be his friend, his relative, his brother, or his father,—I would also dismiss him from the service and Assemblyman Oppus would not be able to save him. I want the justice of the peace to be free, to be impartial, to be independent.

Now I am through. I feel very grateful, deeply and profoundly grateful, for this warm reception that I have received in this town of Maasin. I am pleased and thankful to the members of the National Assembly who have supported the policies of my administration. These policies have not been, as yet, carried out completely; we need the enactment of a few more laws if the people of this province think that my policies are favorable to the people of the Philippines, if the people of this province approve of my administration. But I want to ask you to return to the National Assembly men who are supporting the policies of this administration.

My heartfelt thanks to the people of Maasin, particularly to those beautiful girls who sang a hymn for me.
/Applause/

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Reelection of Assemblymen, Social Justice, and Labor Organizations, June 13, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**REELECTION OF ASSEMBLYMEN, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS**

[Delivered at the public plaza in Ormoc, Leyte, June 13, 1938]

Mr. Governor, Assemblyman Tan, Mr. Mayor, my Friends:

This is the first time that I have the pleasure of visiting this great town of Ormoc. I have come here not only because I had long wanted to visit you, but also because I wanted to pay a visit to your assemblyman and give him public evidence of my esteem. Before I proceed to talk of public questions that I desire to discuss this morning, I wish to say a few words about Assemblyman Tan.

I suppose you know that whereas in the last general elections for governors and municipal officials, I decided to keep my hands off the fight, nevertheless in the election for members of the National Assembly, I have publicly announced the desire and hope that members of the National Assembly who have distinguished themselves in the service of the Assembly would be reelected by their constituents.

If there is any member of the National Assembly today who deserves reelection, that member is Tan from this district. *[Applause]* Ormoc had been well represented in the National Legislature in the past. But I want to say right now, without in the least disregarding the valuable services rendered by the predecessors of Assemblyman Tan, that no one has done better than he has. *[Applause]* Personally, to tell you the truth, I prefer that Assemblyman Tan be not reelected because I am sure that if he is not reelected I shall have more rest than I ever had the last few years. There had been times when I hated Tan and wanted to kill him because of the occasions when, despite my fatigue for having worked too hard, Tan would still insist upon seeing me to tell me something that interests his district. On some of those occasions, I was so tired and disgusted that I told my aide to tell Tan to go to hell. *[Laughter]* But Tan is persistent and he never gives up. If he cannot see me on Monday, he comes back on Tuesday; if he cannot see me on Tuesday, he returns on Thursday and stays in the office until finally I have to see him. *[Laughter]* So, sometimes, even when I was not quite convinced that what Tan wanted for his district was right I would accede to what he wanted just to get rid of him. *[Laughter]* Now, this is no joke, I mean what I say; it is not a joke. Tan is a disgusting man to me for that reason; and if you want to render me a personal service by giving me extra rest the next few years, then do not vote for him. But if you don't care what happens to my rest and, instead, you are interested in the promotion of the interest of the country and of this district, and in having a lie servant who will serve the people loyally, then reelect Dominador Tan. *[Applause]*

Now, I want to tell you this. I don't care which members of the National Assembly are reelected. If a member of the National Assembly is elected and tries to fight me, I can fight him and, when I do fight him, he will get the worst of it. I am not looking for members of the National Assembly who will say "yes" on everything I say. When it comes to the worst, I don't care whether the members of the National Assembly are with me or against me. The powers of the President of the Philippine under the Constitution are so great that I can govern the country without the National Assembly. I am performing a duty not as the President of the Philippines but as a citizen of the Philippines, when I tell the people that those members of the National Assembly are entitled to remain. If you have any doubt as to

whether a member of the National Assembly can make it hot for me or not, choose a man for the Assembly who will fight me, and you will see what the result will be. Now, that is plain talk; but it is the way I talk. And I simply say this so that the people of this district may realize that I have no personal interest in the reelection of Tan. It is simply because we want to establish in the Philippines a practice which is adopted by all democratic countries; that is, when a district happens to choose a man who is a good assemblyman, that assemblyman should be reelected as often as he would want to be reelected. Of course, they change the Assembly when there is a change of party. Now, if the district of Tan wants to elect a man to the National Assembly who belongs to the Frente Popular, Communist or Socialist party, that is different; you elect a new man then. If you prefer to be represented in the Assembly by a man of the opposition, that is your right. But, of course, although I am giving the country a non-partisan government, there is in every democracy an element of politics which I do not propose to ignore. The election, for instance, from this district of a member of the opposition, would be a direct vote against me and against my policies. I would take such a vote to mean that you do not approve of the policies that I have adopted. I would understand that to mean that you do not approve of the laws passed by the National Assembly.

In view of the fact that the most important laws passed by the Assembly are laws affecting public roads and schools, I would understand it to mean that you don't want roads, you don't want schools. I would understand it to mean that you do not approve of my policy to give the poor man a chance to enjoy the privilege that belongs to him as a human being. I would take that to mean that you do not approve of my punishing officials of the Government who violate the law and who do not perform their duties. But I believe I need not talk about that because I don't expect this district to elect a man from the Frente Popular.

I will say just one more word about the candidacy of Tan. I don't know whether there are other candidates in this district or not. If there are others, I don't want to be understood as saying anything against his possible opponents. But even if you have a prophet in this district and you elect him, that prophet will not be able to accomplish during his first term what Tan can do during his second term, because in the National Assembly it is necessary to have some practice, some experience, some knowledge the ways and habits of politicians and of those who are not politicians. It is even necessary to know how to obtain an interview with the President. You know that it is very hard to see the President of the Philippines when he is in Manila. He is quite a busy man. Much as he loves to be with people, he cannot spend all his time talking to his friends. Sometimes municipal mayors come to Manila. I like very much to see them, but sometimes public duties do not permit me—I have no time, no material time to see them. The mayors of Leyte, when they go to Manila, can only see me because they have some very wise assemblymen there. Now, I have but three more years of Presidency and I should like to have in the Assembly men who, I know, will cooperate with me. And so I ask you to reelect Tan so that his term of office will end when I cease to be the President of the Philippines.

Now, don't believe that I have come here only to advocate the candidacy of Tan. I started my speech with the advocacy of his candidacy because I want to see use him later as my interpreter in explaining the policies of the Government. And I want to use him because, knowing what those policies are, he can possibly make no mistake in translating what I am saying.

The first thing I want to say to you is the question referring to social justice. I want to explain what that means. Social justice means justice for everybody. It does not mean justice for the poor or injustice for the rich, because that would not be justice. It does not mean justice for the rich or injustice for the poor; that, also, would not be justice. It does not mean justice for Nacionalista Party alone and not justice for the Frente Popular. It means justice for everybody, for our friends and for our enemies—justice for those whom we love and justice for those we hate. There is no merit in doing justice to a friend because your heart tells you to do it; the merit is in doing justice to an enemy in spite of the fact that he is your enemy.

Ormoc, I understand, is one of the towns of the Province of Leyte where there are many prosperous merchants and people of wealth. I want to tell them that the rich can only keep his wealth forever if he treats right the man who is working for him. It is not only as a matter of justice that the man who works should be paid an appropriate wage. It is also a matter of business for the man who pays. If you pay a man who works for you a wage which is enough for the support of his family, that man will work for you with love and with devotion, and he will fight for you if the time should come that your interests required defending. But if a man who is working for you is not given what he knows he is entitled to have and he sees that you are accumulating wealth, that man in his heart will pray that you

lose what you have. That is considering the question of the relationship between capital and labor in a particular way. But if you look upon the question of the relationship between capital and labor from the point of view of the nation, the consequences of injustice due to that relation are still worse, and they may even be very dangerous consequences. If we have a country where the laboring masses feel that they are treated fairly and justly, we shall have a happy and contented people and there will be no danger of public disorder or lawlessness. Who suffers first if there is lawlessness, disorder, or revolution? The first to suffer are those who have property. Therefore, from the point of view of the country at large, it is necessary that we give benefits to our laboring class. I want to say a few words, however, to our laboring class. I am for you, I am for you with my heart, I am for you with my soul, because I come from a poor family. I want you to know that in order to finish my studies I worked as a “muchacho” for the Franciscan Friars. I passed nights without food when I was a student. I have known what misery is, and that is the reason why I sympathize with the poor.

I am determined to terminate abuses against the poor. Gradually, we are trying to get the National Assembly to pass laws that will properly protect the rights of the laboring class. But you, the laboring class, must not allow yourselves to be fooled by some demagogues who call themselves labor leaders and who pretend that they are working for the laboring class when, as a matter of fact, they are working only for themselves. They live on what they get from the poor laboring class. They give them ill advice and they cause my government some trouble which makes it difficult for me to carry out my policy in favor of the laboring class.

I am in favor of labor unions. I am in favor of labor unions, because not only have the laborers a right to organize themselves, but also a union is a means whereby they can collectively press their petition and express their grievances. In fact, I have advised the different labor organizations in the Philippines to unite into one great labor organization. That shows that I am in favor of labor because if all the labor unions were organized into a great labor organization, they would make that labor organization a very powerful force. But it is impossible to have one labor organization here. Why? Because every leader wants to be the chief; and he wants to be that because it is to his interests to be a chief. And these leaders will not sacrifice their individual interests for the sake of the whole labor organization. That is the best proof that they are not interested in labor, they are interested only in themselves. Of course, in politics there are different political parties. Why? Because political parties may have different programs. And so I say to the laboring class of this province and of this town: “Beware of these self-seeking labor leaders.” Don’t listen to any ill advice from them, don’t believe that you can get your right recognized only when some labor leader speaks for you. Don’t believe that any labor leader can threaten the Government or threaten me; don’t believe them when they tell you that you can adopt threatening measures in order to secure your rights, for when you do adopt such measures, you will not secure your rights. As long as I am the President of the Philippines, no group of men, no class, no organization, whether of the rich or of the poor, will be able to threaten this Government with violence for I will resist any such threat. I will deal justly and fairly only with those who are approaching the Government honestly and peacefully. I want to tell you—I am again addressing labor itself—nobody is more interested in your welfare than I am. I am not deceiving you. I don’t have to deceive you. I don’t need your votes any more because I shall never be a candidate. There is nobody who can do anything for me now in the Philippines—nobody. I shall be President until 1941 and nobody can stop me from being President. I have my powers under the Constitution, and nobody can deprive me of those powers as long as I am in office. Nobody can take away from me the presidency until 1941 and nobody can get the presidency until after 1941. Therefore, I am not deceiving you; I don’t have to deceive you; I don’t want anything. All I want is to serve you, to serve my people who have been so good to me. [Applause]

My countrymen: There is no man living in the Philippines who has received so many favors from his countrymen as I have. There are few men in the whole world who have received the loyalty of their people for such a long time as I have and there is nothing that I can do to pay it back except to serve you unselfishly, devotedly with all my mind and heart, and that is what I want to do. [Applause] And I have no hatred for anybody; I have helped even my worst political enemies. I have love for all those who were with me and those who were against me. [Applause]

I have no more ambition to become a political power, I have all that I want. My sole ambition is to do justice to everybody, to give you a good government that will be remembered by our children as an honest and fair government. [Applause] It is my sole hope that on the day I step out of the presidency, you, my people, will say, “He has done the best he could for our own interest.”

So, you rich individuals, you merchants, you industrialists, treat your employees well; and you laboring class, don't hate those from whom you are getting your wages; help them in the best way you can. I promise you all the support of the Government; I threaten all with the power of the Government if you don't comply with your duty, if you don't comply with the law.

Now, only a few words more because I am already tired, and Assemblyman Tan can further explain what I may omit. A few words about your hemp, roads, and schools. About your hemp, I know that the situation of hemp is very bad. The National Assembly has approved at its last session a law authorizing the creation of a company that will engage in helping the hemp industry. I am going to approve that law, but I am not sure that it will be the solution for the hemp industry. We are going to do the best we can to help you. But you know hemp is sold outside of the Philippines and the purchase price of hemp outside does not depend upon us. In one way we can be of help to you. We are going to organize in this province agencies through which we can buy hemp so that your local merchants, if they pay too low, may pay a little bit better with our competition. With regards to roads and schools, this is Santa Claus time for the Philippines—you will have more money for roads and schools than you have ever dreamed of. *[Applause]* This will be one way of solving the unemployment problem, and I expect the engineer, the governor, and the municipal mayors, to give work to everybody without discrimination as to party affiliations. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to have been here. I know this has been a great day for me and I want to close by saying, "I thank you."

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the Inauguration of the Provincial Capitol of Cebu, June 14, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the Inauguration of the Provincial Capitol of Cebu**

[Delivered at the City of Cebu, June 14, 1938]

PROVINCIAL CAPITOL OF CEBU, RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

It is only human that when you can decide things in favor of your friends, you prefer to decide them on their side. But I had a duty to perform, and I had to perform that duty even against the wishes of my friends and regardless of what the people might think when I was convinced that what they were thinking was wrong.

Religion is a great force for good.

When I speak of social justice I mean precisely justice for everybody. It does not mean justice for the rich and injustice for the poor. Neither does it mean justice for the poor and injustice for the rich. It means justice to all the constituent parts of the community.

Those who have can only keep what they have if they do justice to those who work for them.

I have only one ambition left in this world. That ambition is to give the Filipino people an honest, efficient, and fair government.

Progress is impossible to attain without peace. No country can grow rich without peace. Peace is the basis of every good thing in life, and peace, in order to be permanent and enduring, must be, and should be, based not only on bayonets but also on the contentment of the people.

The people, the masses, can only have confidence in their government by the manner in which they are governed in their respective municipalities.

The poor people can only believe that they can get justice from this Government if the justices of the peace give it to them in their respective districts.

There is only one way to show me that you are 100 per cent with me; not by shouting "Mabuhay si Quezon!"; not by applauding Quezon; not by giving Quezon a warm reception as you are giving him now; not even by voting for Quezon; but by performing faithfully your duties as Filipino citizen and by doing your obligations as officials of the province.

Let us have peace, peace based on justice, peace based on cooperation, peace based on the common desire to see this country of ours the greatest nation on this part of the globe.

Mr. Governor, Mr. Vice-President Osmeña, His Grace, My Dear Friends:*

Today is a great day for the Province of Cebu. An issue which has been discussed in your political platform for many years has been closed forever. It would be foolish to ignore the fact that in the erection of this magnificent building, which will testify to the great efforts made by your ancestors, there was a strong opposition. [Applause]

There are people who prefer to ignore facts, believing that by so doing those facts would cease to exist. In my life, both as an individual and a public man, I have always faced facts squarely. So I am facing the facts when I started any remarks this evening that before you succeeded in building this capitol you went through a long and hard fight. [Applause]

But this is not against the people of Cebu. Quite the contrary, it speaks highly of your patriotism and courage. We have every reason to believe that those who opposed the erection of this building were inspired by high public motives. They did it in the performance of their duty as citizens of the Province of Cebu. [Applause] On the otherhand, those who insisted that this building should be built, and built here, had the right to believe that they too acted in good faith and in obedience to what they thought was in the interest of the public. [Applause]

I want to say to you right now that I myself had very serious doubts as to whether this building should be built here or not. [Applause] When Governor Cabahug submitted this matter to me, after my inauguration as President of the Philippines, I made a thorough investigation of the facts of the case before I finally acted on it. I came to Cebu and visited the place, I warned Governor Cabahug not to take the matter up with Vice-President Osmeña. [Applause] I did not talk to Vice-President Osmeña about it; I did not consult him. Instead, I ordered all the papers that remained for many years in the archives brought to me.

To tell you frankly, I did not want to approve the construction of this building for two reasons. First, because I was afraid that not only the good name of the Government of the Philippines but also that of Vice-President Osmeña would be involved; second, because I knew that those who opposed its erection were the men who stood by me here during the Anti-Pro fight. [Applause] and it is only human, ladies and gentlemen, that when you can decide things in favor of your friends, you prefer to decide them on their side. [Applause] But I had a duty to perform, and I had to perform that duty even against the wishes of my friends and regardless of what the people might think when I was convinced that what they were thinking was wrong. [Applause]

The President of the Philippines has a duty which he owes to the whole Filipino people: that if he must decide a question affecting one province, he must see to it that the best interests of that province are served. Now, I want to say to my friends my old political friends who stood by me here; that I finally decided on the erection of this building here; if you are really my friends, you should abide by my decision. [Applause] But even those who are not my friends should abide by my decision for it is a decision based not only on facts but also on what I consider to be for the best interest of the province. Furthermore, it is my duty to respect the decision of the government of this province. You should also abide by my decision because your own eyes at this solemn moment tell you that I am right. [Applause] Look at this building! What a magnificent building worthy of the people of Cebu! [Applause] Look from the other side of this building, and see those blue mountains before you! So I congratulate the people of Cebu! [Applause]

There is, however, one man here today who should be sad and lonesome. Who that man is, even the most scrutinizing among you cannot detect. He is not in your mind. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the unlucky man of Cebu today is Governor Buenaventura Rodriguez, because it is my purpose to dismiss him from his high position and, instead, appoint myself governor of Cebu. [Applause] He is committing a great crime, for he has dared to have an office that is even larger than that of the President of the Philippines. [Applause]

I congratulate Vice-President Osmeña. I am not congratulating him for the erection of this building, but for the vision that he had almost thirty years ago when he conceived the great project of improving and enlarging the City of Cebu. It was after the great fire of Cebu that Vice-President Osmeña conceived of a new City of Cebu. At the time when he envisioned what we are now seeing here, I am positive that no other Filipino in the Philippines had such ideas about a modern city as he had. At the time it would have been inconceivable to have a great project as what you have now. I do not say that everything that Vice-President Osmeña has done here, as a leader, is well done. It would be childish for me to tell the people of Cebu who Vice-President Osmeña is. You certainly know him as a

public official of this province better than I do. I am not going to enter into a discussion of his political career as a public official. But I may boldly say here in the presence of this great audience, that when the Vice-President is gone the consensus of the people of Cebu would be that he was the great builder of this province. [Applause]

It may be that he has been at times a leader more of the Province of Cebu than of the Philippines. But if he has been so, certainly the Cebuanos should not be the ones to criticize him for that. I want to say to you that I have been in public office as long as Vice-President Osmeña. As President of the Philippine Senate, I wielded a very great influence in the Government. But I invite you all to come and visit Tayabas and to compare it with Cebu. Well, I am not implying that Vice-President Osmeña has done better than I, nor the reverse. I am only asserting that Vice-President Osmeña will be recognized by posterity as the great builder of Cebu. [Applause]

I will not speak to you of his achievements as one of the greatest leaders of our people, because I have not come to campaign for his candidacy as my successor. Besides, I still have friends in Cebu who want me to be reelected in spite of the provisions of the Constitution to the contrary. I have only referred to what Vice-President Osmeña has done for Cebu, because it is fitting to make that statement on this occasion.

I congratulate Governor Cabahug for having built this capitol. I congratulate him and the members of his Board. I also congratulate Governor Rodriguez because he is going to be the beneficiary of what Governor Cabahug has done. [Applause]

But above all, I congratulate from the bottom of my heart the people of Cebu. I congratulate you, because you are worthily represented in the Executive Department by two secretaries who occupy the most important portfolios in the Government. The two most important activities of the Government—education and health on the one hand, and public works and communications on the other—are in the hands of two Cebuanos: the Vice-President, who is the Secretary of Public Instruction, and ex-Governor Cuenco who is Secretary of Public Works and Communications. You should be proud of Secretary Cuenco. He is a man of honesty and integrity, a man with a courage and conviction that do honor to him and to this province. In the National Assembly, no province is represented by more influential, more patriotic, and more devoted representatives other than Cebu.

I said before that I did not come to advocate the candidacy of Vice-President Osmeña as my successor, but I must tell you now that I have come to advocate the candidacy of your representatives. And I am recommending alike the reelection of those who were formerly Pros and Antis. [Applause] You should not have any political fight this coming election. You must go ahead and elect them. If, however, the Frente Popular presents its candidates, then fight the Frente Popular. [Applause]

Now, I am going to touch on a few points of a rather ticklish public question. I will speak on religious instruction in the public schools for two reasons: first, because the members of the National Assembly from Cebu were practically unanimous in supporting the bill, and second, because His Grace, the Archbishop of Cebu, is with us here. [Applause] I want to say to you that at first, I was inclined to favor the bill. I was even hoping that the National Assembly would pass a bill that is constitutional. I wanted to approve the bill, because I firmly believe that it is not only for the best interest of the individual but also for the best interest of the State, that the children be instructed in the principles of their respective religions.

Religion is a great force for good. But after I had studied the law as it was passed, and after I had gone over the fountain of that legislation when it had been first enacted, I came to the conclusion that, much to my regret, I had to veto the bill, because I found it unconstitutional. However, I did not stop there; I went further and studied the question of whether the Constitution should be amended or not. My honest conviction—and it is a conviction that I have not only as a public official but also as a Catholic—that we better not touch the Constitution at all.

That I believe in religious instruction, I have demonstrated by sending my own children to colleges where they receive religious instruction. But it is one thing to teach religion as a part of the curriculum in a religious college and it is another thing to teach it in the public schools. If we are going to amend the Constitution with reference to religious instruction in order that the work that has been accomplished so far may not be wasted, and for that

amendment to amount to something, religious instruction should be made a part of the curriculum in the public schools, otherwise we will be doing nothing more than what we are doing now.

In a country like the Philippines, where we have so many religions, and where every religion is entitled to an equal recognition by the Government, to make religious instruction a part of the curriculum will be to bring chaos to the school. In the first place, it is true that when it comes to religion the people are not very tolerant whether in the Philippines or anywhere else. This is especially true in the Philippines, for the reason that we are a new nation. We have only thirty-five or forty years behind us on this question of religious tolerance. Well, imagine five different ministers teaching five different religions at the same time under the same building. If that would be the case, everybody would devote himself only to the teaching of his religion; nobody would interfere with the other's religion. That is all right only in theory, but not in practice.

The Catholics in the Philippines constitute an immense majority of our population. I take it that the Catholics believe that if religious instruction would be made a part of the curriculum, the greatest beneficiary would be the Catholic Church. I am afraid that that may not be always so. It is a very dangerous thing to even permit the Government to have anything to do with the church. This does not mean, however, that the Government will not have anything to do with the church. It will be perfectly right for the Government to do something with the teaching of religion if this is made a part of the curriculum. But suppose we have a President who is a zealous Catholic—one who entertains some prejudices against other religions while he has strong inclinations in favor of his own religion—he would directly or indirectly exercise his influence in favor of the teaching of the Catholic religion. The majority of you who are Catholics will say, all right, that is fine, let me do it. But suppose the next President happens to be a non-Catholic; suppose, for instance, he is Vicente Sotto [Applause]—I mention his name because he comes from this province and I know that he is not fully in accord with the teachings of the Catholic church—the result would be only chaos and confusion. If the Catholic President feels that he can favor the Catholic church, Vicente Sotto will certainly believe that he can also favor any church other than that of the Catholics.

Now, if and when such a situation arises, we who are Catholics and who compose the majority of our population, what shall we say? Shall we say that that is not right? If we say that it is right for a President to favor the Catholic Church, and if we bear in mind that this Government must be fair and impartial to all religions, we should recognize that the President who helps other religions is also right. [Applause]

And I say this: if the teaching of the Catholic religion is made a part of the curriculum, the final power and responsibility for conducting classes will be, in the last resort, in the hands of the Government. If there are complaints from the priest of one church or of another, the decision will be rendered by the Executive Department of the Government, and this department may decide those questions in favor of his own religion regardless of the merits of the case. Now, what would be the consequence of that? The consequence would be that the Catholics, being in the majority, would want their religion protected in the schools and always make that question an issue whether a candidate is a Catholic or not. That means that a religious strife will always be involved in every election,

And now, I want to ask every Filipino, whether he is a Catholic, a Protestant, an Aglipayan or of whatever sect he may be, these questions: Do you want religion to be discussed in politics? Do you want to mix religion with Government? I am sure you will answer, "No." Yes, you don't want that to happen.

My countrymen, it will be a sad and tragic day when the Filipino people begins to make religion a political issue. The entire history of the human race shows in letters of blood how terrible was the fight for religion. If we are all Catholics, and only Catholics, I will say, all right, let us keep the unity of the Filipino people in their religion. But we are not all Catholics in the Philippines. The few, even if only a few, who do not profess the Catholic religion, are as much entitled to respect as we are.

We must, therefore, maintain in all its integrity the doctrine of the separation of Church and State. In the old days, in the early years of Christianity when the sovereigns were Catholics who recognized the supreme authority of the Pope over them, the unity of the Church and State favored the Catholic religion, because, in the last resort, the Chief of the State recognized the Pope. But that time has passed. In our days, the union of the Church and State simply

means the control or attempted control of the church by the Government. So it is better to keep the Church and State separate.

Now I am going to talk to you on another subject. You have heard of social justice, and I want to tell you what I mean by social justice. When I speak of social justice I mean precisely justice for everybody. It does not mean justice for the rich and injustice for the poor. Neither does it mean justice for the poor and injustice for the rich. It means justice to all the constituent parts of the community.

I am emphasizing at this juncture, justice for the poor because in our country the poor people need the protection of the Government. Let us tell the truth here. For centuries past, we have been accustomed, to treat the poor as unworthy of any consideration by the powerful. We think that the poor have only such right as we may give them. When we pay them a salary, we do not consider if the salary is sufficient to support them; we only take into account what we want to pay them. When we pay a poor workingman his wage, we don't consider what he needs for the support of his family. We pay him what we think he will accept, because he has to accept it. [Applause]

In religion—I am going to talk on religion now—the real Catholics know that the command of our Lord is to love one another. Love is emphasized by the kind treatment which give our fellowmen. Love is manifested by giving our fellowmen what they are entitled to have.

But if you don't want me to talk of Christian love, let me talk to you of human selfishness and convenience. I want to tell those who have, that they can only keep what they have if they do justice to those who work for them. You pay a man forty, fifty, or sixty centavos for a day's work. That man has been working all day. That man has a wife and children. He has to eat; his wife and his children have to eat also. They also need clothes at least to cover themselves. Do you think that a daily wage of forty, fifty, or sixty centavos is enough for them, because with that amount they can buy a little corn or rice and some fish? If you divide that food among seven persons, there will be just a small portion for everyone. Do you expect them to eat only that? If they are hungry still, they remedy their hunger by drinking water. Do you think that if they have a pair of clothes for the year, that is enough? Do you think that a poor man's daughter or son will have more than enough if he has a pair of clothes while the daughters and sons of the rich are having clothes by the dozens?

Now, let me ask you, my friends and countrymen: What do you think the poor man will feel when he is treated that way? We have people in our country who charge an interest of 25 per cent on money loaned. We have corporations here that pay dividends of 50 per cent on capital invested. And, surprisingly, those corporations refuse to raise the wages or salaries of their employees!

No, we cannot go indefinitely with this situation. The day of reckoning will come. We are organizing a citizen army and we are expecting this army to protect our country from any foreign invasion. But remember that the majority of the men who are given military instruction are the sons of the poor. If these men see that their parents or they themselves are not treated justly by our Government and our people, they are not going to defend their country.

I have only one ambition left in this world. That ambition is to give the Filipino people an honest, efficient, and fair government. [Applause] I want every man and woman under the Filipino flag to feel that no matter how lowly he or she maybe, he can come to this Government and receive the protection of the law. My ambition is to see that in this country of ours the workingman will be given his rights without the necessity of working for them.

Progress is impossible to attain without peace. No country can grow rich without peace. Peace is the basis of every good thing in life, and peace, in order to be permanent and enduring, must be, and should be, based not only on bayonets but also on the contentment of the people. I want to remind the officials of this Government,—national, provincial, and municipal,—that they are in office primarily to serve the interest and welfare of the people and not to promote their selfish interests. They are not in the Government to commit abuses against the people. On the contrary, they are in office to prevent the commission of abuses by the other officials of the Government. I hope every official of the Province of Cebu will bear in mind that this is his bounden duty.

In speaking of officials of the Government, I am referring particularly to the justices of the peace who must bear in mind that they are the only officials to whom the poor can appeal for the redress of their grievances. The people, the masses, can only have confidence in their government by the manner in which they are governed in their respective municipalities. The poor people can only believe that they can get justice from this Government if the justices of the peace give it to them in their respective districts. I want every justice of the peace to feel that he occupies a very important position. I want him to know that he does not have to please anybody, that he does not have to be the friend of anybody, in order to keep his position. All he has to do is to comply with his duties. The justice of the peace must be fair, honest, and courageous. If he performs his duties well and good, he need not fear anybody, for he will remain in his post. But if he mixes in politics, or allows himself to be the instrument for the persecution of somebody, or he himself commits abuses, nobody can save him, for I will remove him from office.

In his introductory remarks, the governor said that the people of Cebu are 100 per cent pro-Quezon. Well, I want to tell you that there is only one way to show me that you are 100 per cent with me; not by shouting “Mabuhay si Quezon!” (Long live Quezon!); not by applauding Quezon; not by giving Quezon a warm reception as you are giving him now; not even by voting for Quezon; but by performing faithfully your duties as Filipino citizens and by doing your obligations as officials of the province. [Applause] You can show me that you, whose duty is to administer justice, are pro-Quezon by doing justice to everybody.

I am proud and happy to be here; proud and happy, because I am convinced by what I have just seen with my own eyes that it is true that the people of Cebu are 100 per cent pro-Quezon. [Applause] I have only one request to make and that is: please continue the good work that you have done in the past. By that I mean that you continue along the road of progress and culture. But I advise you not to continue any further in your political strifes and controversies. Let us have peace, peace based on justice, peace based on cooperation, peace based on the common desire to see this country of ours the greatest nation on this part of the globe. [Applause]

My countrymen, I wish you success and God bless you. [Applause]

* Associate Justice Manuel C. Briones, upon designation by the President, acted as interpreter.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on veto of Bill on Religious Instruction, July 17, 1938

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines On veto of Bill on Religious Instruction

[Delivered upon the President's arrival from a trip to Japan; New Luneta, Manila on July 17, 1938]

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your warm reception.

When I received the information that preparations were being made to accord me this popular reception, I expressed the preference to be allowed to decline the honor, unless there was some special reason for such a popular demonstration. I am averse to our old-age custom of receiving public officials with arches and bands, and of making the people waste their time in welcoming them. So I have long since instructed the provincial and municipal authorities not to inform the people of my inspection trips so as not to inconvenience them. In line with this idea, I did not wish or expect the people to take the trouble of welcoming me back from a short trip which I made purely for the purpose of having a rest; but when I was informed that there was a spontaneous desire to give me this public testimony of popular support of the policies of my administration, I felt that I should yield to your wishes.

The policies of my administration had been enunciated in the platform upon which I was elected and, therefore, upon my election, I had the right to assume, and I did assume that the people expressed their approval of those policies. When, in the last general election for provincial and municipal officials, practically all the candidates of the Nacionalista Party were elected, I had the right to accept the result of the election as the verdict of the people in approving manner in which the commitments of my party have been carried out. I took the result of the last general election as a conclusive evidence that the people of the Philippines are thoroughly in accord with my policy of social justice and its implications, namely, the fair treatment of all the constituent elements of the community and the social purpose of wealth, with its consequent amelioration of the living conditions of the masses; the elimination of abuses from whatever quarters, whether official or private; the resolute maintenance of public order and peace; and the safeguarding of the rights of property and individual liberty. I took the result of that election as conclusive evidence that the people heartily endorsed my objective to maintain the independence of the judiciary, and, at the same time, to make the courts not the bulwark of privileges and antiquated conceptions of human relationships but the living instrument of the will of the people to dispense justice in accordance with the present concept of human rights and the social responsibilities of capital. I took the result of the last general election, in fine, as the expression of the eagerness of the Filipino people to see realized, as soon as possible, my purpose to give every girl and every boy of school age the opportunity to enter the public schools and thus open for them the way to useful citizenship.

To my knowledge, nothing since the last general election has happened or has been done regarding important public questions except these things: the termination of the work done by the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, the passage by the National Assembly of the bill on religious instruction and my veto thereof, the pastoral letter of the Archbishop and the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu discussing my veto and urging both the members of the National Assembly and the people to persist in the enactment of that measure despite my veto, and lastly, my statement criticizing that pastoral letter as an attempt on the part of the Catholic hierarchy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu to interfere with the affairs of the State, and appealing to the people for unity in the support of the Church and State.

When the majority of the Filipino members of the Joint Preparatory Committee returned, our people expressed their satisfaction over the work accomplished by the Committee. Having done nothing more than to appoint the members of the committee, I can claim no credit for their work. There is no reason, therefore, to suppose that this demonstration has nothing to do with the work of that committee. I may say, in passing, that on the same ship that brought me back to Manila, a member of the Joint Preparatory Committee also arrived—Assemblyman Manuel Roxas. I am sure that the other members of the committee, both Americans and Filipinos, will testify to the creditable work done by Assemblyman Roxas. I am sure that the other members of the committee, both Americans

and Filipinos, will testify to the creditable work done by Assemblyman Roxas, and I want you, my fellow citizens, to welcome him back to our shores and, with me, express to him the thanks of the nation for the valuable services he has rendered our country.

It seems, therefore, that this popular demonstration can only have one meaning, and that is, that you have come here to assure me that both my veto of the bill on religious instruction and my stand on the question of the separation of Church and State have met and continue to meet with your entire approval, and I want to say to you that if I am right in my interpretation of the significance of this demonstration, you make me very happy. You make me very happy because I feel that were this so, there could be no danger whatsoever of any dissension among our people arising out of any religious question. Fortunately, the issue involving religious instruction in the public schools is not a religious question and should not be allowed to degenerate into such a controversy.

I have learned that, in my absence, an exception has been taken to my criticism of the pastoral letter of His Grace, the Archbishop of Cebu, and the bishops of that Ecclesiastical Province, to the effect that, because of his vocation, no ecclesiastic is precluded from the exercise of the right of every citizen of a democracy to express an opinion on any public question, and that the Catholic hierarchy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu simply made use of that right.

I shall not deny any bishop, priest, or minister of any church, of his right as a citizen to express his opinion on any public question; but I do emphatically deny the right of the constituted authorities of any religious organizations, Church or Faith, in their capacity as authorities of that religious organization, Church or Faith, to speak as such and to influence the Government or any of its branches in the determination of its policies. And this is what the ecclesiastical authorities of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu had done in their pastoral letter.

The action of the bishops was taken by them sitting as bishops, and, therefore, the letter was written in their capacity as bishops of the Catholic Church as is shown by the fact that it was styled a pastoral letter. And in that pastoral letter they did not only urge the faithful to do their utmost in teaching the religion to their children studying in the parochial schools, which is doubtless their right, but they even went to the extent of discussing the constitutionality of the bill and the validity of my veto, of urging the members of the National Assembly and the Filipino people to insist upon the enactment of the said bill despite my veto, and of launching at the same time the very serious charge that the Government was not enforcing the Constitution regarding religious instruction. They asserted that the bill was precisely designed to enforce the Constitution.

It should be remembered that the majority of the Filipino people are Catholics; and many Catholics would give great weight to the opinion of their bishops and priests expressed in a pastoral letter without discriminating as to whether the matter referred to is purely religious, in which case they may speak with authority or is a governmental question in which case their opinion carries no greater weight than that of any other individual.

This is the first time since the establishment of American sovereignty in the Philippines that the authorities of any church, speaking in their capacity as such, have attempted to influence the Government on matter of purely public or civil character. The issue should be met squarely and brought to a speedy and definite determination. There are two questions that must be settled at once. First, whether we shall or shall not countenance the attempt of the authorities of any church to use their ecclesiastical position to influence the Government on any matter that does not affect directly the rights of their church. Second, whether the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu have really spoken or not for the majority of the Filipino people really spoken or not for the majority of the Filipino people when they stated that the Filipino people demand the enactment of the measure, which I have vetoed.

The doctrine of the separation of Church and State was not enunciated by a King or a President, or by a Pope or a Bishop, but by our Lord Jesus Christ himself. While our Lord was still in this world, there were those who wanted to show Him up as a false prophet, so they went to Him and asked whether they should pay the taxes demanded by the Roman Catholic or not. Thereupon Jesus asked them to hand Him a coin; upon receiving it, He asked them whose face was it that appeared on the coin; and they answered it was Caesar's. Jesus then said: "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's."

Very soon I shall convene the National Assembly in a special session for the purpose of considering certain measures that I desire to submit to that body. Before I could veto the bill on religious instruction, the National Assembly had already adjourned and, under the terms of the Constitution, the Assembly cannot take up the matter and override my veto at its next session. However, I am not disposed to take advantage of a technicality in order to deprive the assemblymen of the opportunity afforded them by the Constitution—to express themselves on my veto when they meet. So in my message to the National Assembly I shall state that, if it so desires, it may consider and act again on the bill on religious instruction. If there be still majority in the National Assembly who, withstanding my veto, are determined to pass that measures, they may do so; and I shall forthwith veto the same and send it back to the National Assembly as that it may override my veto again if it so pleases.

In turn, these measures may be an issue in the next general election, in which the people will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the stand of their assemblymen. If, on the other hand, the National Assembly should abide by my veto and decline to take up the question of religious instruction again, the country may consider the matter settled, unless in the coming election for the National Assembly the people should decide to elect a majority who would commit themselves in their electoral campaign to enact a measure on religious instruction. I am ready for a showdown, and I am confident that the people are solidly behind me on this question, as you have demonstrated by your presence here today.

Your warm welcome convinces me that the country agrees with me that we should be united, that no religious head should be allowed to interfere with the affairs of our Government, and that you fully endorse measures adopted, and now being carried out by the administration, to protect the weak and help the poor and to extend equal opportunities to all.

Once more I thank you, my beloved countrymen, for your warm welcome.

Address of President Quezon on Government Policies concerning Business, July 29, 1938

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

GOVERNMENT POLICIES CONCERNING BUSINESS

[Delivered at the inauguration of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Building, Manila, July 29, 1938]

Mr. President, Members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It affords me genuine satisfaction to be present at the inauguration of this imposing building which is massive structure and stately in design.

I see a significance in these ceremonies that is at once far-reaching and inspiring: The rise of the Filipino businessman, astride, as it were, on the past and the present, with his face turned seriously and with determined purpose towards the future! He asserts his will to take the place and rank in our national economy which are his by right and by duty, and which for so long he has failed to attain. I hope and I trust he will succeed. Nothing that I can do as Chief Executive of this Commonwealth will be spared to urge him onward and to assist him in every legitimate way to reach that goal.

One of the aims of my administration has been to grant to the Filipinos every facility they may need to acquire an increasing share in the business activities of the country. This policy is prompted by more cogent reasons than merely a narrow or emotional nationalism. Our national economy can never gain stability and strength, unless it is built permanently upon the brain and brawn, the work and wealth of our own people.

The Filipino businessmen, however, should not assume that the Government will extend to them special privileges at the expense of the public interest, or in disregard of the rights of Americans or foreigners doing legitimate business in the Philippines. Under our Constitution, Americans are entitled to the same consideration accorded to Filipinos. As to foreigners, aside from their rights recognized in international law and our own laws, they have the further right to be treated with equity and justice, because they have helped in the development of our country at a time when our own people were not engaged in business enterprises. What the Filipino businessmen have the right to expect from their Government and what we are affording them, are means which they did not have in the past, such as banking institutions, facilities for trade and communications, new opportunities to engage in productive activities. In other words, the Government is facilitating and encouraging greater participation of Filipinos in the commerce and industry of the country. But the Filipino must stand on his own merit. He must make his way through earnest, intelligent, and determined effort. He must be ready to meet the exigencies of fair competition, for only under equal circumstances should he have the right to expect the protection of his countrymen.

We cannot, we must not, adopt a policy that in any way may be interpreted as antagonistic to foreigners. We do not underestimate what they are doing and what they can do to aid our material progress. The attraction of foreign capital has been one of my main concerns. However, foreign capital, at best, is an uncertain factor for the national economy of any country to be built upon. The cornerstone, the sustaining walls, every part which gives firmness to our economic edifice, must be constructed mainly with the work and resources of Filipinos. Our own people should supply the blood streams of our economic life. Our economy must be built principally by ourselves.

The only sound basis for a national economy is productive enterprise. Experience counsels that this field be left largely to private initiative. This is a postulate of the profit system and the institution of private property. Our Constitution is committed to this social philosophy. No other system has been found so far to be of practical permanent value. In his regime alone can the natural human impulses have free play and be put to advantageous use. Other systems may perhaps temporarily, increase production and add efficiency to the economic machine but only at the cost of the suppression of the liberties of the people.

While private enterprise is to be relied upon to buttress the national economy, it must be admitted that there are uncertain social and economic objectives which can be accomplished by direct government action. This has been recognized by our Constitution which grants specific authority to the State "in the interest of national welfare and defense, to establish and operate industries and means of transportation and communication, and, upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government." The provisions of the Constitution in this respect are not only based upon the experience of other governments lacking these powers when confronted with urgent and grave economic or social problems, but also upon a consideration of the fact that the Philippines has to face the difficult task of economic reconstruction. Pursuant to these provisions, when private capital is neither prepared nor willing, I have considered it necessary for the Government to undertake essential economic ventures. These, however, are not intended to compete with private enterprise, but rather to aid and stimulate individual effort. By that I mean that my political and social philosophies are opposed to a government monopoly of economic enterprises except, perhaps, in the case of public utilities if and when circumstances demand it. Neither do I favor bureaucratizing the whole system of production and distribution of commodities. That would be one of the greatest calamities that can happen to this or any other country.

Private business constitutes the pillars of the social structure. To a large degree, the people draw their sustenance from it and the government lives on it. No statesman can fail to recognize this fact. It is, therefore, to the interest of the Government and the people to help business, to nourish it in its growth and development, and to insure its continued existence. Nothing that can hurt business will fail to have harmful reactions on the Government and the people. It is with this knowledge that I have adopted, as a basic policy of my administration, to extend to legitimate business the assistance of the Government. It is my purpose to persevere in this policy. I wish to give to every businessman, foreigner or Filipino, the assurance of a just and fair treatment. My endeavor to secure adequate wages and satisfactory working conditions for labor is not motivated by a desire to destroy business or to create circumstances under which private enterprise could not survive. I have asked for labor the means for a decent existence, in the conviction that this is humane and equitable, and that, in the last analysis, it is for the permanent benefit of capital itself. Enlightened self-interest is the best policy for businessmen and it will convince them of the wisdom of giving to labor the fairest treatment that they can give. Capital itself is nothing more than the values of accumulated labor. It should be willing to accord to labor a reasonable share of its profits. I bespeak the cooperation of all businessmen in my efforts to give labor its due, assuring them in turn that they can expect the cooperation of the Government in the promotion of their legitimate interests.

Business may rely on the sustaining arm of the Government. It may feel secure against injustice or revolutionary changes. Our steps looking towards reforms of our economic and social conditions will be deliberate—constructive and not destructive. But we shall not brook unreasonable opposition to our determination to raise the standard of living of the common man.

There are very few countries in the world today that offer such favorable conditions for business expansion as the Philippines. Our monetary structure has soundness. It will be maintained. The finances of the Government are in a very healthy condition. The Government is living within its income. The public debt is not only being met promptly and adequately but also being constantly reduced. The proceeds of the excise taxes are to be spent in the readjustment of our economy and in financing an economic program that will be carefully planned and executed.

Members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce I am calling attention to these facts and reaffirming the policies of the Government in relation to business, in order that you may see that you have nothing to fear, but, on the contrary, have everything to encourage you. Let us work hand in hand and take advantage of the opportunity to make this nation really happy and prosperous. I congratulate you on this day for the opportunity that is yours to help your country and yourselves.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at a banquet tendered in honor of His Excellency, Paul V. McNutt, and Mrs. McNutt, August 13, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At a banquet tendered in honor of His Excellency, Paul V. McNutt, and Mrs. McNutt**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, Manila, August 13, 1938]

Mr. High Commissioner, Mrs. McNutt,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have tendered this banquet to High Commissioner McNutt and his charming wife as a fitting climax to the ceremonies of the day. However, Mrs. Quezon and I are not only honoring the representative of the United States in the Philippines on this day, when the people of my country have given evidence of their sentiments and gratitude for the work done here by America, but we are also honoring a man who possesses rare qualities of A-1 statesmanship and who is endowed with manly virtues. It is a pleasure to see that his public demonstration of the sentiments of friendship and gratitude on the part of the Filipino people towards the United States should take place precisely at the time when the man who represents America in the Philippines also represents in his person the ideals which have made of America the one single inspiration of the whole world in these times of distress.

High Commissioner McNutt has given evidences, during the short time he has been with us, that he believes not only in the principles of democracy but also in the effectiveness of democracy. He has shown in deeds not only his belief that America is sincere in her intention to serve the Filipino people but also his conviction that that policy was right, for during the short time that he has been with us he has done everything he could to help the Philippines secure from the United States what further help she needed to make a success of the great responsibilities that have been placed in her hands by the United States in recent years. I desire to take opportunity of this occasion, Mr. High Commissioner, to express to you not only my own sincere appreciation but also that of my people for what you have done while in the United States to facilitate the work of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs.

I have seen and known all the American Governors-General of the Philippines. Strange as it may seem, those who were popular with the Filipinos usually were not popular with the Americans, and vice versa. But where most of your predecessors failed, you have succeeded—for you have won the respect and admiration of both Filipinos and Americans. I wish to offer a toast to you for that success, to your health and prosperity, and to that I add the wish and prayer that Mrs. McNutt may soon grace the White House with her presence.

*His Excellency, Paul V. McNutt, United States High Commissioner to the Philippines, delivered the following speech of response:

Mr. President, Mrs. Quezon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

What you have done tonight has been done with characteristic generosity. For that, Mrs. McNutt and I are deeply appreciative.

I wish it were possible at this time, and on this occasion, to adequately express the feeling of gratitude to you, and to those whom you represent, for these months which have been spent in a cooperative effort to achieve mutual aid. Most of my life has been spent in the public service, but in all these years I have never had a more cordial, a more

friendly relationship with any official in the public service anywhere than with you here. This has indeed been a very happy period of service.

By our mutual confidence, which is absolutely essential, we have dealt with a situation unique in the annals of history—a situation which to my mind is the greatest experiment of a government anywhere in the world today. On behalf of my fellow countrymen, Mr. President, may I tell you how deeply we appreciate the sincere manifestation of friendship and gratitude which this day has brought.

Occupation Day, which has meant much to all those who participated in that struggle 40 years ago, has taken on a new meaning, has brought a new luster to itself. For the first time in the history of civilized nations, a people who once felt the force of arms celebrate the day of victory by an expression of gratitude. All of us who are here, and our fellow countrymen in the homeland, feel deeply this very fine expression. I think you know by those things which have happened during the past 40 years that the feeling of friendship has been reciprocated from the very start because here has been a demonstration of a policy announced in the very beginning and carried out faithfully.

To the rest of the world America's sovereignty in the Philippines has represented a relationship between a mother country and a colony. But the men who have contributed to the success of the experiment—the men who have done their share in the administration of affairs here—have looked upon it not as a colony or as a relationship between a trustee and a ward, but as a partnership,—in the beginning a senior partner and a junior partner, but with the hope that the aspiration of a partnership between equals might be eventually realized.

After a period of the experiment had elapsed, those at home and here realized that there have been ample demonstrations of a capacity for self-government, a policy which has been freely given to the Filipinos from the beginning; and now the great interest at home and here is the preservation in this Pearl of the Orient of that thing which gave our own birth—the right of men to govern themselves, the right of men to worship as they see fit—FREEDOM, with all that glorious word means.

All of us here tonight realize that we live in a distressed, a bewildered, a bedeviled world. We look with anxiety to the haggings of each day and wonder what the future has in store for us, for our children and for our children's children. We wonder if the world itself will recognize the right upon which our nation is founded, upon which this new nation finds its rock of security.

Today there are nations that would divide the world into spheres of influence and which would deny that the earth belongs first to the Maker diverse and then to His children. It is not their earth; it is God's earth on which we live; and the right which He gave to all of us is the right to be free. That right the United States seeks to guarantee to all her people, to all those who have come within the sphere of her influence. Disregarding any material benefits which may have come to the Philippines by reason of the 40 years of America's occupation in these islands, the one thing, Mr. President, which I hope is the principal heritage of these people is freedom—the right to live, the right to work, the right to be human beings, the right to enjoy all those things which are the heritage of human beings. As you so kindly said this morning, the relationship between the United States of America and the Philippines is thoroughly spiritual relationship. That relationship cannot be destroyed; it will not be destroyed.

You said today that you could not forget. I say to you, Mr. President, that there are those who have looked upon you during these years of development and growth who will not also forget. The ties which have been made shall never be severed as long as men live.

Therefore, I have the honor to propose a toast to the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and to the people whom he represents.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Address of President Quezon on Filipino Gratitude to the United States, August 13, 1938

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

FILIPINO GRATITUDE TO THE UNITED STATES

[Delivered at the Luneta on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary
of Occupation Day, August 13, 1938]

Mr. High Commissioner, Honored Guests, My Fellow Countrymen :

We have assembled in this setting of tranquillity and peace to celebrate reverently great events and heroic actions; to commemorate deeds whereby a new culture was implanted in our land; to memorialize a great nation for its beneficent altruism.

Forty years ago, this day and hour, an American Army stormed to the attack of the beleaguered Spanish City of Manila. I was a witness to that epoch-making event. In memory's eye, I can see them now, forming grimly for the advance in the hazy mists of the morning's glow, tight-lipped, covered with sludge and mud, sweated and seared by tropical heat, driving home to their objective, and for some of them, to the judgment seat of God. Green's Brigade sweeps over San Antonio Abad and along the beach while over to the east General MacArthur drives up the Singalong Road to be met by a hail of fire from Block House 14. He calls for an officer to volunteer to lead a close assault and clear the way, and history writes its first chapter in the career of the future American World-War Chief of Staff—Peyton C. March. By nightfall the town is theirs.

Many in this audience contributed their services to their Government that day. For such, one of the special purposes of these particular public proceedings is to express to you some degree of appreciation for your many acts of good soldiery. You no doubt recall vividly the spirit of adventure that animated you as young soldiers on mobilization, when mirth and romance beckoned and the vision of the world was decorated with wonder and ambitious hopes. You remember, too, how you entered into the service with cheerful hearts and fervid patriotism; how you rejoiced when the war was over and victory attained, and how you made your way home amidst the joyful acclamations of a grateful nation. In memory of those days, millions of people, bound together by an impulse of sympathy, not only turn with love and devotion to the graves of the dead, but they also cling to and cherish with reverential awe the living remnants of those former armies and navies. In your youth and strength, your love and loyalty, you gave all that mortality can give. You need no eulogy from me or from any man. You belong to history as furnishing one of the greatest examples of successful and disinterested patriotism. You belong to posterity as the instructor of future generations in the principles of liberty and right. You belong to the present, to us, by your virtues and by your achievements. I think it safe to assert on your behalf that you feel amply repaid for all that you suffered and for all that you did.

The angry passions of those warlike days are now calmed and soothed. The sense of personal misfortune has passed away and we live far enough from those times of trial and test to know that honesty and sincerity were not all on one side; and reflective minds recall with pleasure that the efforts of the genius, courage and virtue of those heroic periods, are now our common heritage. Feelings of reciprocal respect unite the warring factions in bonds of understanding and reverence for our mutual dead.

But, poignant as are the sentiments I have expressed, the main purpose of this gathering is not to extol the actual incidents or participants in the conflict of that eventful day but to express the boundless gratitude of the Filipino people to the United States for the measureless benefits she has bestowed upon us during the four decades that have passed since then.

As I saw in that late afternoon of August 13, 1898, the sun set in the clouds that crown Mariveles with purple and gold, in the gathering darkness of the Pacific, the royal flag of Spain came down and for the first time in my life I saw the Stars and Stripes run to the fore. Little did I realize then that I was witnessing what in ultimate result may prove to be the greatest event of modern civilization in the Orient. Little did I know in my immaturity that I was beholding the birth of a new ideology in Asia—an ideology based upon what was then a strange, new conception in this part of the world—a conception that government is, “of the people, by the people, and for the people”—a conception based upon the magic words—liberty and freedom. To me, as I watched in the sunset glow the Spanish colors being lowered, it seemed the setting sun was symbolical of the falling flag—the waning of a great empire. Little did I dream then that the first pangs of Philippine nationhood were in their beginnings, that forty years later I would be speaking as I am today. All I could see then was the symbol that once I loved passing away. I paid it then the mead of affection I felt for Spain as I voice now the measure of my lasting gratitude to her as mother of our Christianity and of that indefinable but delightful thing the world calls Spanish culture.

Strange the hold that a national flag has upon its people. The mystery of symbols lies deep in human nature. It is probable that almost as soon as men began to gather together for common purposes, some kind of conspicuous object was used as an emblem or symbol of the common interests. Impulses to that end rise spontaneously in the hearts of men. They do not issue from any prearranged culture of sentiment but by process of instinctive fervor spring from the honest and simple-hearted simplicity which prompts mankind to cherish and to stand by kith and kin; which engenders those sentiments of devotion to home and fireside upon which the perpetuity of nations depend. Symbols in all ages have played a large part in human affairs by stimulating the actions of men, through their sentiments and through their imaginations. All written forms containing injunctions and rules of action and duty are precise and appeal strongly to the understanding, but are destitute of the warmth and color that awaken the immeasurable emotions of the heart. The signs and emblems of great movements have always laid hold of their followers with more vigor and tenacity than the history and written rescripts of the movements themselves. Attachment to the flag has been quite as potent as loyalty to the law as a factor of national stability.

What manner of flag then was this Stars and Stripes? I asked myself as I saw it for the first time fluttering from Santiago’s ramparts in the gathering gloom. History taught me.

It was more than a century and a half ago, on June 14, 1777, that the flag of the United States was formally adopted by official resolution. It began in all the sobriety of an act of the Continental Congress. It ended in one of those rare bursts of poetry which occasionally distinguished the Revolution. It provided that the Union should be “thirteen stars, white, in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” The fathers of the struggling Republic were under no illusions; they knew they had shaken the foundations of an already crumbling world, and they hung that constellation definitely in the western sky with all the superb confidence which illuminated the opening years of the modern era.

The world has turned over more than once since June 14, 1777, but the constellation has never set. It pictures the vision of a people whose eyes are turned to the rising dawn. It represents the hope of a nation for posterity. It speaks with the sanctity of revelation. It has a meaning unrivalled; a message which gladdens all races; a strength and power of influence which inspires people to bravest thoughts and deeds. The struggle for human rights and liberty gave it birth; battles for freedom scarred it with holy markings; and the spirit of sacrifice, service, and devotion has made it blessed.

It symbolized two great acts of national statesmanship—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The first proclaimed a philosophy of government new to the world of that day. It was based upon the thought that the rights of men—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—are of supreme concern. It ascribed their origin and sanctity not to the tolerance of society nor to the benevolent whim of any monarch, but to the august gift of the

Divine Creator of the Universe. It declared man's title to his estate of freedom to be self-evident, no longer to be debated or denied, and therefore no longer to be gainsaid by any majority of his fellowmen, however overwhelming. And it grounded the claim to national existence upon the ultimate predicate that "it is to secure these rights that governments are instituted among men." The regimen of democracy is rule of the majority. But it is the great contribution of the American Revolution that these fundamental, essential human rights became the purpose and prime concern of government; that it took them out of the category of things debatable, where the will of the majority may prevail, and placed them in the fellowship of things unchangeable because eternal.

Woven into the very warp and woof of the Constitution were the principles of the Declaration of Independence. But now, instead of being an announcement of a philosophy of government, they were enacted into immutable law. In its wise distribution of governmental powers and the establishment of effective checks and balances, in so far as human sagacity can control human nature, it shut the gates of power against the intrusion of tyranny, corruption, and selfish ambition. Creating a strong central government, adequate to the common defense, to the securing of domestic tranquillity and to the fulfillment of international obligations, it taught the world that democracy may be made safe for mankind. But more than all this, more than had as yet entered into the mind of man save in his fond dreams of a coming Golden Age, it solved the great problem of the reconciliation of government with liberty. In England the doctrine of the omnipotence of Parliament was fully established. But here the omnipotence of the legislative body was emphatically denied. Over and above the power of the lawmakers was set the higher power of the Constitution. And in confiding to the federal judiciary the final interpretation and application of the Constitution and the laws, the founders of the Republic placed upon them the supreme duty and responsibility of refusing to give recognition to enactments violative of the organic act. Other free and popular governments there are,—constitutional monarchies or republics,—where the rights of the people are more or less definitely respected. But there liberty and justice, even the sanctity of the constitution itself depends upon good will of the legislators or their fear of political sequences. But here, let but the least attempt be made to thwart or deny what is written in the organic law, let but the meanest citizen be stripped off the rights which this great charter of liberties guarantees him, and it is the voice of justice, unimpassioned but irresistible, which interposes the categorical negative of the Constitution.

All this and more was written on that flag as it unfurled above the Pasig before my uncomprehending eyes that fateful afternoon. All this and more it was to transcribe, to implant, to bequeath to me and mine. Under its folds, peace and prosperity have come to this favored land. Materially we have developed education, sanitation, and agricultural and industrial enterprises. Security and happiness, freedom from financial pressure, and a higher mode of life—all are ours. A new and progressive outlook upon the modern problems of life is in the making. All of this we owe to that starry flag and to the great people it represents. When it finally comes down from Santiago in 1946 it will find somewhere in its folds the grateful hearts of a people—a new and vibrant republic facing with optimistic hope its rising dawn. No words can adequately thank you, great American people. We can only hold you in the reverence of our hearts and pray for you as we render homage to the Great Guider of all destinies, Our Father who art in heaven.

Occupation Day—forty years ago—we will not forget. We can not forget.

Mr. High Commissioner: As a symbol of the endless chain of friendship which binds together our two peoples, I wish to present to you, Sir, for your exalted leader, the President of the United States, these two flags—that of your country and that of the new country to which it has given birth. The tie that binds us together, which they represent, does not depend upon an alliance, nor a declaration, nor a treaty. It consists of those eternal, spiritual kinships and relationships which defy all quarrels, all oppositions, all aspirations. It is that extraordinary indefinable longing for the same sort of things. Our aims, our hopes, our appreciations are the same. In the great moral causes, the great causes of righteousness, of liberty, of peace, the great causes which mean the perpetuation of the spiritual things of life, the United States and the Philippines are going on in complete unison with each other, not dominating nor conspiring against each other, but going on in complete accord with each other, because in the essential things, we are in absolute and hearty agreement.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Quezon on Experiences as a Tubercular, August 18, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Experiences as a Tubercular**

[Abstracts from the speech delivered during the dedication ceremonies at the Quezon Institute—a sanatorium for tuberculosis
under the Philippine Tuberculosis Society—at Santol,
Santa Mesa, Manila, August 18, 1938]

Six years ago, when I was in the United States on an important mission in behalf of the Philippines, I started to feel chest oppression and back pain, and became easily fatigued. As my work needed all my strength and I could ill afford to be sick at the time, I took the first opportunity to consult Dr. Miller, famous lung specialist in New York City. After subjecting me to a rigorous physical and fluoroscopic examination, the doctor diagnosed my case as tuberculosis of the lungs. I was then ignorant of this disease. I had always felt vigorous and healthy throughout my life and had never thought seriously of diseases. My notion of tuberculosis then was that any one who suffered from it was doomed to die.

It was a beautiful day in spring when I entered Dr. Miller's clinic; the sun was shining bright, and my spirits were high. When I heard the doctor's pronouncement, I felt the day suddenly darken; my spirits became depressed and my ambitions were shattered. I passed a sleepless night thinking of the course I should pursue, realizing that death was very near. I thought of my enormous responsibilities to my people, of the task that I had not yet completed. I realized that I was a husband and the father of three children whose future I had relatively neglected. I decided on that eventful night that I must dedicate the remaining days of my life to the work that still remained undone by me as the leader of my people and as the head of a family.

I wanted to be sure how long my life would last so I could adjust my plans. The following day I went, back to Dr. Miller and told him point-blank. "Dr. Miller, I know that I am going to die and I don't care, but please let me know how long I can still expect to live so that I may adjust my program of activity accordingly." Dr. Miller smilingly told me that nobody died of tuberculosis if he had the will power to get well, and that if I would take a complete rest under the attention of a competent physician, I would still have many useful years ahead of me.

After disposing of the important matters I had on hand. I found myself crossing the continent bound for California where I entered the Pottenger Sanatorium at Monrovia. I was advised by the physician to stay in bed, and this I did religiously for nearly six months. I was then far from being a crippled man. I still had enough energy to go about, being used to a very active life. Therefore, to stay quiet in bed, day in and day out, required all my will-power and determination to get cured. I had fought in the Philippine Revolution and undergone hardships and privation, while still a very young man, but I had never endure I torture as when I was laid up in bed for six month even raising my head. But I knew it was necessary and I patiently endured it. After this rest at Monrovia Sanatorium, I came out a cured man full of high spirits and with a feeling of being much younger. This experience has convinced me that tuberculosis is curable, and that anybody at the incipient stage of the disease, with the means and the will-power to get well, can be cured.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Address of President Manuel L. Quezon on Policies and Achievements of the Government and Regeneration
of the Filipino Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On policies and achievements of the government and regeneration of the Filipino**

*[Delivered before the faculties and student bodies of public and private schools, colleges, and universities, at the
José Rizal Memorial Field, August 19, 1938]*

My Friends:

This unprecedented assemblage of the faculties and students of all the universities and of the teachers and pupils of the public and private schools of Manila, for the purpose of doing me honor on the occasion of my birthday, thrills me with unbounded happiness, for I see in this fine and generous tribute not only your kindly feelings for me but also your approval of the policies and achievements of my administration during the last three years. This expression of your friendship and support will spur me to go onward with renewed faith in the policies I have pursued and with redoubled determination to carry them to a successful completion.

While it may be tedious to review the objective and purposes or the accomplishments of my administration, I feel it my duty at this time to give a brief account of my stewardship of public affairs during the first half of my term of office.

Since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, it has been my task to erect the governmental structure upon the broad and unshakeable foundations of the Constitution. I have established precedents which, I hope, will serve as signposts in the administration of the public business. My eager purpose has been to give vitality and power to democratic processes and to adapt them to the ever exacting demands of the complex social and political problems of our day. We have succeeded, I believe, in proving that representative government in the Philippines can be as competent in action as it is fundamentally sound in principle; that it can act promptly and effectively in any emergency, without sacrificing either its form or substance; and that a régime of popular deliberation and expression can promote social welfare and the happiness of the people.

Keeping faith with the spirit of the Constitution, as I understand it, I have acted as the leader of the nation rather than as the spokesman of a political party. I have chased narrow partisanship from the councils of government. I have scrupulously maintained religious freedom and the separation of Church and State. I have safeguarded free thought, free expression, and the unabridgeable right of the people to work, and to possess and enjoy the fruits of their toil. Every possible precaution has been taken to insure speedy and impartial justice, maintaining, in fact, the equality of all men before the law. I have not tolerated corruption, inefficiency, or injustice in public office; and I pledge myself to persevere in my efforts to sweep every nook and cranny of the Government clean of every deleterious influence that might impair the vitality of the body politic. I have kept the public finance in a sound condition and have succeeded materially in introducing approved business practices in the management of the people's money.

Having set up the Government, the next concern of my administration was to safeguard it against possible dangers from within and without. It was necessary to erect effective defenses against subversive movements, the possible tyranny of aggressive minorities, or the danger of mob rule. That has been accomplished. The Philippines is definitely secured against lawlessness and disorder, and I shall offer no quarter to any man or group of men who seek to attain social or political aims through force or resistance to legitimate authority, in preference to the expeditious procedure guaranteed by the Constitution to everyone who desires a redress of grievances. The armed forces of the Nation will be maintained free from politics and as clear and unstained of pernicious influence as the courts of justice.

Our national defense is being organized without reference to any foreign aggressor. I can see none now. We are surrounded by friendly nations that, I believe, entertain no untoward designs against us. It shall be to our lasting benefit to maintain these friendly relations, avoiding every act that may disturb them or which may entangle us in the quarrels of others. After we shall have attained the full stature of independence, I trust that our foreign policy shall be fair and just to all nations, granting special privileges to no one, and seeking none for ourselves. As I look at the events of these days, I am strengthened more and more in my belief that if we follow this course we should have no fear for our national integrity.

In the field of public welfare, I have been unflagging in my effort to promote social justice and to ameliorate social conditions among the masses of our people. The attainment of these objectives depends not only upon economic and moral factors, but also upon the people themselves, for only through productive work can social standards be improved. Within the realm of government action, I believe I have advanced towards these objectives as far as the laws of the land or the circumstances have allowed. We have built schools, hospitals, and roads; we have extended the benefits of numerous other social services, particularly to the poorer classes of our population. We have endeavored to maintain industrial peace by increasing wages and improving working conditions. I have stamped practically all the important activities of the Government with a social purpose, because I believe intensely in the principle that it is the duty of the State not only to keep order, administer justice, and safeguard individual rights and property, but also to promote the people's welfare, assuring to everyone an equal economic opportunity, wholesome living conditions, a chance to work for a decent livelihood, a fair share in the fruits of the country's material progress, and the enjoyment of a standard of living in accordance with the basic needs of self-respecting intelligent men. My ambition is to give to every Filipino the opportunity to acquire through toil his necessities in food, clothing, and shelter, together with reasonable comforts, and a leisure which will permit cultural self-improvement and a participation in the blessings of an enlightened civilization. I should like to give to all our countrymen social security in youth as well as in old age, for themselves and their families.

The task of economic preparation for independence has not been overlooked. The Government has done everything to stimulate industry, help business, and promote material progress. I sought to reopen the question of our trade relations with the United States with a view to obtaining a modification of the economic provisions of the Independence Law. The President of the United States lent a sympathetic ear to my request and, in consultation with me, he appointed the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, which committee has already studied the question of our future trade relations with America and submitted its recommendations. With the income that we are receiving from excise tax collections in the United States, and with the expected changes in our trade relations with America, I feel that we shall be in fairly good position to face the problems of economic readjustment and reconstruction, the solution of which we cannot long delay. I propose in the remaining years of my administration to give impetus to economic development pursuant to a carefully prepared plan.

I have briefly outlined my policies and our achievements during the first half of my administration, now about to close. I look upon these accomplishments and these policies as affecting merely the superstructure, the framework, of our national edifice. But just as a building of magnificent architectural design, adorned with golden colonnade and arches, would topple down and crumble to pieces when the earth trembles in seismic activity, or when lashed by the fury of the winds, unless it be built upon solid foundations, so our national structure, if it is to endure and be capable of resisting political disorders and grave social upheavals, must rest upon the rock-bottom of the character, the toil, and the physical prowess of the people.

National strength can only be built on character. A nation is nothing more nor less than its citizenry. It is the people that make up the nation and, therefore, it cannot be stronger than its component parts. Their weakness is its failings, their strength its power. Show me a people composed of vigorous, sturdy individuals, of men and women healthy in mind and body; courteous, brave, industrious, self-reliant; purposeful in thought as well as in action; imbued with sound patriotism and a profound sense of righteousness; with high social ideals and a strong moral fiber; and I will show you a great nation, a nation that will not be submerged, a nation that will emerge victorious from the trials and bitter strifes of a distracted world, a nation that will live forever, sharing the common task of advancing the welfare and promoting the happiness of mankind.

Wisdom and self-interest as well as a proper regard for our future security and happiness should induce us to entertain no illusions nor a mistaken pride as to ourselves. We are engaged in the epic task of building our nation, to

live and flourish, not for a day but for all time. We must find the flaws, if there be any, in our concept of individual and community life, as well as in our character, and proceed at once to remedy them.

I have an abiding faith in our people. I know that they have all the faculties needed to become a powerful and enlightened nation. The Filipino is not inferior to any man of any race. His physical, intellectual, and moral qualities are as excellent as those of the proudest stock of mankind. But some of these qualities, I am constrained to admit, have become dormant in recent years. If we compare our individual and civic traits with those that adorned our forefathers, we will find, I fear, that we, the Filipinos of today, have lost much of the moral strength and power for growth of our ancestors. They were strong-willed, earnest, adventurous people. They had traditions potent in influence in their lives, individually and collectively. They had the courage to be pioneers, to brave the seas, clear the forest and erect towns and cities upon the wilderness. They led a life of toil and communal service. Each one considered himself an active part of the body politic. But those traditions are either lost or forgotten. They exist only as a hazy-mist in our distant past. We must revive them, for we need the anchorage of these traditions to guide and sustain us in the proper discharge of our political and social obligations.

The upward climb of mankind has not been universal. In the human landscape there are peaks and valleys and deep chasms. Generally there is need of potent social upheavals, volcanic in proportions, to raise the lower levels to greater heights.

There is no substitute for suffering and privation to bring out the finer qualities in man, just as physical struggle develops his sinews. This is in accord with biological laws. The battle for existence, the survival of the fittest, is ever the rule of life in nature and among men. Stern necessity, the urge that comes from fear of destruction, the loss of honor or of freedom, reacting upon latent human faculties brings out the best that is in man. In this respect, humanity as a whole has merely shown that it possesses the same degree of adaptability exhibited by all species of nature. But man, after sporadic periods of advancement, has not been able to hold permanently to spiritual gains, and very often has slid back to his former stage when the pressure is wholly or partially removed. This is occurring to our race. A period of deterioration has started and, unless we check it, we shall soon be on the down grade.

Freedom, no less than prosperity, has come to us, much more as a gift of heaven than as the fruit of our own hard efforts through a long period of suffering and privation. During the last forty years life has been too easy for us. We have secured political rights almost for the asking, and we have gained prosperity not only because of the bounties of our extraordinarily fertile soil, but also through the advantages that our economic association with the richest and most generous people in the world has given us. The youth of the land that did not take part in the death-struggles of their fathers nor have tasted the hardship of their lives, have led, from childhood, a life of ease and relative comfort, and are enjoying the blessings of liberty for the achievement of which they have done nothing and the lack of which they have not felt.

Let us be realists. And let us above all be true to ourselves. The stakes are too high—our liberties, those very liberties for which the Filipino of yesterday fought and died, our happiness, and our very existence as a nation and as a race. We cannot afford to suppress truth or to extenuate our shortcomings. Let us cast away pretense and futile pride. Let us look at ourselves stripped of the veil and trappings with which in our vanity we often cover ourselves. That we are at all capable of doing this and detecting the weaknesses from which we suffer is vindication enough of the excellence of our race.

The Filipino of today is soft, easy-going. His tendency is towards parasitism. He is uninclined to sustained strenuous effort! He lacks earnestness. Face-saving is the dominant note in the confused symphony of his existence. His sense of righteousness is often dulled by the desire of personal gain. His norm of conduct is generally prompted by expediency rather than by principle. He shows a failing in that superb courage which impels action because it is right, even at the cost of self-sacrifice. His greatest fear is not to do wrong, but of being caught doing wrong. He is frivolous in his view of life. His conception of virtue is many times conventional. He takes his religion lightly. He thinks that lip-service and profession are equivalent to deep and abiding faith. He is inconstant; he lacks perseverance; the first obstacles baffle him, and he easily admits defeat. The patriotism of many Filipinos of today is skin-deep, incapable of inspiring heroic deeds. There are those who are apt to compromise with ethical principles and to regard truth as not incompatible with misrepresentation or self-deceit.

Among us social decorum is fast becoming prostituted by a mistaken conception of modernity. This is particularly true among the young. A wrong adaptation of foreign customs creates in them a feeling that politeness is commonplace and that smartness and insolence are the equivalent of good breeding. They do not realize that civility is the consummate flower of culture and civilization, for it embraces all the virtues and in turn sustains and enhances them all.

Self-restraint is not an active power in us. Those who are high-strung and emotional seldom utilize this great source of energy for the attainment of desirable objectives. Our nerves snap into a frazzle when confronted with danger or seemingly insurmountable difficulties. We abhor discipline, either moral or physical, forgetting that self-discipline is the most effective process to build fortitude of body and spirit.

Socially, we are inefficient. We are loathe to accept our social responsibilities. We look upon our Government as the fountain source of living, to which we are reluctant to give anything, but from which we expect every bounty and help. We work slowly and scantily. We are afraid to exert ourselves in toil. We prefer a life of ease and take pride in it, not knowing that there is dignity only in work. We feel no compunction in living on the labor of others. This is singularly true of that numerous group of small land-owners who are content with the meager income from the rent of their land, instead of working it themselves, and from their own sweat gain greater profits. These are the people who constitute our middle class who should be the back-bone of the body politic. They are a liability in our social structure. Their idleness is a drag upon the economic and social advancement of our country, too heavy for any people to carry. They form a stagnant pool which breeds anemia into the blood streams of the body politic and will cause its certain death unless they awake to their responsibilities and realize their ignoble existence.

This appraisal of the character of our people today may sound too severe. You will realize that I would be happier if I could only shower praise upon my countrymen. But my responsibility as head of this Nation compels me to face and state facts, however disagreeable they may be to me or to our people, for it is only thus that we can remedy existing evils that threaten to destroy the vitality and vigor of the race. Because I have not lost faith that there is, within us, all the spiritual and moral forces needed for the building of a great nation, I am ruthless in pointing out our present shortcomings. Our task—it is a heroic task—is to awaken and apply these faculties so that our people should become what of right they should be: morally strong, virile, hard-working, refined, enterprising, persevering, public-spirited.

Social and political conflicts have been the crucible in which the dynamic faculties and virtues of man have been tempered and fused. Chivalry and the *Bushido*, as well as the industrial revolution and the advancement of science and art, are the offspring of death-struggles of man against man or of man against nature. It is in a sense our misfortune that God has not visited such trials and vicissitudes upon our people in adequate measure. We would be a stronger, sturdier race if we had faced such ordeals. Much as we have endured during our quest for liberty, our sufferings are as nothing compared with the price paid by other peoples. Nevertheless, while we were engaged in our fight for freedom, our nation produced men of great worth and character. But—Bonifacio, M. H. del Pilar, Mabini, Luna—where are their equals now? Who can compare with Rizal, with his serene wisdom and his great courage, his spirit of self-sacrifice preferring death to slavery? Who is there that can tread the level of loyalty and gallantry exhibited by Gregorio del Pilar who, like a Spartan soldier, offered his life as a holocaust to duty? There were many others, giants all, who lived in those days and gave luster to our name. They are dead, and it seems that their individual and civic virtues were buried with them. But the sparks still glow within us, and I know that in an emergency they can be fanned into a flame that will fire our souls with heroic determination.

But why wait for an emergency? Are we so devoid of every sense of responsibility that we are willing to let fate determine our course of action? Such is unworthy of purposeful men. I want our people to grow and be like the *molave*, strong and resilient, rising on the hillside, unafraid of the raging flood, the lightning or the storm, confident of its own strength. If we have the will to survive and the will to achieve social efficiency, we can not delay this task of spiritual regeneration. Let us begin to mold the typical Filipino.

Besides, we are truly facing an emergency. The emergency is real. It is at hand. Unless we bring out and use all the energies of which we are capable, we shall not for long enjoy the blessings of liberty and peace.

Some leaders of men have advocated the strenuous life; others a life of danger and adventure. I offer to you the useful life, devoted to self-improvement and the service of the state. It must be rooted on character, self-discipline, and work. It should glorify productive enterprise, a high sense of responsibility, and the ethical virtues. Its objectives are personal perfection and social efficiency.

Today the Filipino is a sad and unimaginative man, perhaps because he has been too long subjected to foreign domination. His sadness is reflected in his speech and his songs. They are of renunciation and disappointment. You see it on the canvas that he paints; you read it in the stories that he writes. If we regenerate his spirit and change his outlook, his songs will be of joy, his paintings of glory, his stories of achievement. Let us endow him with optimism and valor, and with the love of adventure of his forebears.

To attain these aims, it is imperative to fashion the culture and character of the people, so as to provide them with spiritual and physical energies of the highest order.

To insure the accomplishment of this task of national spiritual reconstruction, we shall formulate and adopt a social code—a code of ethics and personal conduct—a written *Bushido*—that can be explained in the schools, preached from the pulpits, and taught in the streets and plazas, and in the remotest corners of our land. We shall indoctrinate every man, woman, and child in its precepts. By every means and power at my command, I shall strive to enforce its principles and to require that they be so universally and constantly observed, that our children may breathe it in the air and feel it in their very flesh. Every Filipino is a part and an objective of this great national movement, the success of which depends upon his own success in building up his character and developing his faculties.

This undertaking—the regeneration of the Filipino—constitutes the paramount interest of my administration. My most cherished ambition is to see it realized. It is the greatest prize that I can crave for my life. I call upon all the teachers, the ministers of every faith, the political and social leaders, and particularly upon you the young men and young women to be at the vanguard of this crusade.

Every official of the Government will have to cooperate, and ignorance of, or failure to live up to, the rules of conduct established, will be a bar to public office. There will be some superficial men, self-appointed guardians of democracy, who would brand this movement as the first step towards totalitarianism. Let us not heed them. It is the concern of democracy to raise the character of the people to the highest peak, for democracy itself can only survive and be effective to promote the common welfare, if the people are intelligent, virtuous, and efficient.

We have attained our freedom, but our spirit is still bound by the shackles forged from the frailties of our nature. We owe it to ourselves and our posterity to strike them down.

We are Orientals. We are known for our placidity and passivity. In the world of humanity we are looked upon as a quiet and smooth lake from which the adventurous and enterprising may reap enjoyment and gain. I refuse to allow the Filipino to be so regarded. We shall be a flowing stream, a rippling brook, a deep and roaring torrent, full of life, of hope, of faith, and of strength. Through self-discipline we shall harness all our energies, so that our power, spreading over the length and breadth of this Land will develop its resources, advance its culture, secure social justice, give puissance to the Nation, and insure happiness and contentment for all the people, under the ægis of liberty and peace.

Other peoples of the world are straining themselves to attain higher levels of progress and national security. We shall not lag behind.

The Filipino people are on the march, towards their destiny, to conquer their place in the sun!

Speech of President Quezon on Work of the National Economic Council, August 22, 1938 SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

WORK OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

[Delivered before the members of the National Economic Council, at
Malacañan Palace, Manila, August 22, 1938]

Mr. Chairman and Members of the
National Economic Council:

I wish to congratulate you upon your assumption of office, and to express my thanks for your willingness to assume the responsibilities of this position.

It is not necessary for me to dwell upon the importance of the work of the National Economic Council. I am positive that everyone of you is acquainted with the objectives of the law which created this Council, and you know that you are expected to plan for the economic development of the country and the readjustment of its national economy to meet the responsibilities of our Government when independence comes.

The National Economic Council was created three years ago and it was organized soon after the approval of that law. Considering the resources then at the command of the National Economic Council as well as the time it had at its disposal to visualize the economic problems of the country, I feel that the National Economic Council has rendered more service than was expected of it. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank Secretary Alas and his associates for what they have done.

Now, the period of achievement has come for the National Economic Council. You have the National Development Company, which is an organization created by an Act of the Legislature with sufficient powers to undertake almost anything that you believe should be undertaken by the Company in this work of economic planning, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. Thanks to the prosperous situation of the National Treasury, it may be said that the National Development Company, and therefore the National Economic Council, has sufficient resources to undertake any enterprise that in your opinion is necessary to carry out the purposes of the law.

I have asked Assemblyman Roxas to accept an appointment as Chairman of the National Economic Council, not only because of his special qualifications for the position, but also because he has been placed under circumstances which have permitted him, as no other Filipino has been, perhaps, to get acquainted with the purposes of the United States Government in its future trade relations with the Philippines. Assemblyman Roxas was a member of the Joint Preparatory Committee, working with it from the beginning to its end; and, in that Joint Preparatory Committee, I understand that one of the things they discussed was how best we can readjust our national economy to face the new trade relations that will exist during a certain period between the United States and the Philippines. That is why I have chosen him to head the National Economic Council, not only because he has made a special study of our situation, but also because he is in a position to know exactly what the objectives of both the Government of the United States and the Government of the Philippines, as revealed during the work of the Joint Preparatory Committee, are with reference to the future. I want to thank Assemblyman Roxas for having accepted this post of responsibility and I know that he will do the best he can, which without doubt will be the best that we can expect of the Philippines under these difficult and trying circumstances.

I want to tell you, gentlemen, that I am not going to interfere at all with the work of the National Economic Council. I do not want to appear to be the leader of this Body. I want to use this Body as the Adviser of the Government in our plans for the future and, therefore, I hope you will feel perfectly free to take up the matters that you desire to take up, discuss them, come to conclusions, and then bring to me the results of these problems after you have threshed them out properly and completely. Then, if I have any suggestions to make, either during the time that you are working on certain problems or after, I shall feel free to make them. But I want to make the National Economic Council assume full responsibility and not feel that it has been created to do what I want it to do. If an occasion comes up when there will be a radical conflict of views as to what the National Economic Council wants to do and what I think is proper for the Philippine Government to do, that will be the time for each one of us to assume responsibility. The National Economic Council is entitled to have its views on record, anyway, so that the members may be considered as the men who have the final responsibility toward the Government. Of course, I will take a position that I honestly believe is the best. But in any event, whether you are doing something on which I agree with you or not, I want the members of the National Economic Council to express their own views and not mine, and to study all questions as you see them and not as I want you to see them. Otherwise, we would have a body that we might just as well dispense with if the National Economic Council does not assume the responsibility for what the law expects you to do—to advise the Government. I have so much confidence in everyone of you that it is inconceivable for me to imagine you submitting something to me which will not be deserving of my attention.

Once more I want to thank you all for having accepted your positions and also to congratulate you because I believe that you have a great opportunity of rendering one of the most important services, if not the most important, to the people of the Philippines at this period of its progress.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Quezon on National Sugar Board and the Sugar Industry, August 22, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

NATIONAL SUGAR BOARD AND THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

[Delivered at the oath-taking of the members of the National Sugar
Board, at Malacañan Palace, Manila, August 22, 1938]

Gentlemen:

This Board has a very important duty to perform and I have chosen you, gentlemen, because I have absolute confidence in your ability and in your desire to be of service.

There are two things that the sugar industry has to do:

- (1) to adjust itself to the situation that will arise once the Philippines loses the free market of the United States, and
- (2) to effect an equitable distribution of the profits of the industry, bearing in mind the contribution each element puts into the industry.

As to the first problem, the question is merely to determine whether, if the free market of the United States is lost to the Philippines, we are in a position to compete with the outside world or not. If so, under what circumstances can we do it? Can every central now existing in the Philippines survive the graduated export tax first, and later the full tariff? If not all centrals could, what centrals can survive the export tax first and then the full tariff? If some of the centrals cannot survive either after the export tax is in force or when the full tariff is imposed on our sugar entering the United States, then the question is how to help those centrals retire from business before they are forced out at the loss of everything they have. I believe that the sugar centrals which cannot survive the taxes ought to be weeded out, and the Government should give them some compensation for their losses. If that is not done now, the day will come when they will be forced out of business and lose everything. So it is simply a choice between two evils.

The other question is to effect a fair participation of the profits of the industry to the sugar centrals, planters and laborers, as well as the landowners. I am convinced that the sugar centrals and the landowners are getting more benefits, proportionately, than either the planters or the laborers. I think the landowner who does not work his land should not get more than a reasonable percentage of the profits. We have to admit that the landowners should receive a certain percentage of the profits, but not too much. I understand the practice has been to increase the rent of their land and burden the man who works the land, cleans the land, and sells the cane. Those landowners must be convinced that they should be should with only a certain percentage of the benefits of the industry. The laborers must be given better wages.

In the case of the planters, there is one thing that is to be considered: that they have entered into contracts with the sugar centrals and are entitled to have their contracts respected. On the other hand, it is much better, in the interest of

the industry itself, if planters are made to feel that they are getting as much from the industry as the sugar centrals. We should foster the spirit of coöperation among all branches of the industry.

My hope is that this Board, after studying these problems, will be able to get the elements that compose the sugar industry, convinced that we are doing this for their interest. I do not like to intervene in private enterprises but, if it necessary, I will have to do it and the only way the Government can intervene is by levying taxes. It will be to the interest of the industry for the elements thereof to agree among themselves rather than have the Government intervene.

I am one of those who believe in the right of the Government to regulate the relationship between capital and labor. I believe in that, but only as a last resort. I mean that the Government should only intervene if capital and labor could not get together on a reasonable basis. Every time the Government intervenes, it does at the expense of liberty. The people oftentimes do not realize that. For the last two thousand years the fight of civilization has been for liberty, yet we here are starting today from the opposite direction because we are forcing on the Government more power, and power so granted to the Government is always at the expense of the individual. We do not want to go back to the days of despotism and abuse. So, while I believe that the Government has the right to intervene in the interest of public welfare, I also believe that it is better if the Government does not intervene; it should not intervene, except as a last resort. A well-organized society should not require the intervention of the Government. A well-organized society should have enough sense of its own responsibilities to the public.

We have a limited number of centrals in the Philippines. We know everyone in the business, and the members of this Board have the respect of the people who are in the business. I have selected the best men I can find for this Board. If you can work together and study these problems, make your recommendations as to how the various elements of the industry should get together and decide as to what should be done and get them to agree on something, the Government does not have to do anything. If not, then I shall have to ask the members of this Board to try to be as fair as they can to the various elements in the industry and then later make recommendations on which the National Assembly can act.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on Building the Character of the Youth, August 25, 1938 Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Building the Character of the Youth**

[Delivered at the Zamboanga Normal School, City of Zamboanga, August 25, 1938]

Character is more important than training.

The application of what we have learned to the practical uses of life, the ability to assimilate what we learn, and the power to think truthfully—that is knowledge.

People who have no self-pride are not entitled to receive the benefits of self-government.

The value of a people is not measured by its material possession but by its moral character.

Duty is more important than knowledge.

True patriotism does not consist in shouting your love for your country. True patriotism is shown in your everyday life. True patriotism does not consist in shouting that you are willing to die for your country . . . Just do your duty every day and you will be patriots.

Eat enough to keep you healthy, dress well to look decent, enjoy enough to give your spirit emotion and your nerves relaxation, but all the time you must have an objective in your life, have an idea—a noble idea—and pursue it.

Mr. Nebrida, Faculty and Students of the Normal School of Zamboanga:

This is the first time since I was elected President that I have the opportunity to address a message to the teachers and students of Zamboanga.

On my last birthday anniversary, I was invited by the faculties and students of all the universities and colleges and the public and private schools of Manila, through the Vice-President to meet them at the Rizal Memorial Field for the purpose of showing me their appreciation of the policies and achievements of my administration in the last two years. That was a very meaningful and memorable occasion to me, I never saw before a more inspiring sight as that which my eyes beheld on that late afternoon of August the 19th. I could have said things that were pleasant to hear but, instead, I decided to talk on what I consider to be the serious weakness of our character today. I then stated that the next three years of my administration will be devoted to the spiritual revival of our people. And I meant what I said; I intend to concentrate my efforts on one of the most important tasks of the leaders of the Filipino people.

Character is more important than training. I will not say that it is more important than knowledge because the word “knowledge” implies more than the possession of factual or technical information. Knowledge implies the absorption of what we learn by either reading books or hearing somebody. The application of what we have learned to the practical uses of life, the ability to assimilate what we learn, and the power to think truthfully—that is knowledge. The mere getting and piling up of information without assimilating them is not I knowledge. But character is more important than the acquisition of scientific information. I would rather have a man who is illiterate but who loves truth, who is afraid to lie, who possesses moral courage, who is honest with himself—and, of course, when you are honest with yourself you are honest with the world—who is straight, upright, fair, and just than the

best scientist who is devoid of a moral sense of justice, love, and truth, who can deceive not only himself but also others.

It seems that we do not realize how indispensable the building of character is. It seems that the teachers entertain the belief that their duty in school is only to explain their particular subject, and that it is not equally their duty to see, watch and properly evaluate the moral conduct of their pupils when judging upon their accomplishments. I want the teachers in the Philippines to know that it is more important to build the character of their students than to teach them their subjects. I want every teacher not only to give their pupils a lecture on good conduct and good breeding every day but also to show them with their conduct that what they tell them they themselves believe and practice.

You know that the Filipino has some wonderful traits. I remember now my boyhood days which I spent in my native town, Baler. We had only one school then, and prior to its establishment there had been no school at all. So the immense majority of the inhabitants, including the grownup people, were illiterates; yet, as I recall now, those men and women lived exemplary lives in their homes and their conduct as citizens was above reproach. Although the young generation of Baler today knows how to read and write and some of the men and women receive college education and are university graduates, yet, as I compare them with those men and women of my youth, I have to admit that Baler has had no better men than those we had in the past. I remember that in my boyhood, business transactions did not require the persons borrowing money to sign any document. There were not witnesses to the transaction, yet the debtor always paid his account on time. Today when a man borrows money in Baler, he signs a document before a notary public; however, when the debt becomes due he finds excuses and asks for an extension of time.

In my boyhood, the dirty portions of the streets of Baler were always cleaned by the owners of the houses facing them. The people themselves built the streets. At the time there was no fund for road construction. Even the municipal building was built with the voluntary contributions of the people. When there was a fire every man and woman tried to put it out. I was in my town only three months ago and I noticed that some of the wide streets that we had when I was a boy, have been converted into little muddy lakes. When the mayor asked me to allot money for the repairs of those streets, I told him that in my childhood I never saw the streets of Baler appear as they do now, although at the time there was no excise tax on oil or land tax from which the municipality could get money to put the streets in proper shape. The people did the work. And I further told him that in the old days I was very proud to boast that I was born in Baler. I gave him one month to improve the town, otherwise I would remove him from office. I hope they have done it; if not, besides removing the municipal officials from office, I will convert my town into a barrio because people who have no self-pride are not entitled to receive the benefits of self-government. So much for that.

I have a much more important message for you. If I compare the things I saw as a boy with those I have seen, now that we are better educated, I should say that we are not gaining in moral values; in fact, we are deteriorating. Nobody feels any sense of responsibility to his community and his fellowmen. We interpret the word "liberty"—"freedom"—to mean that we can do whatever pleases us and that we are not under obligation to do anything to benefit others and the community. We think that to be courteous is servitude, that it denotes a lack of personal dignity, yet courtesy is only seen among gentlemen. And discourtesy is the first sign that one is not a man. The difference between a civilized person and a savage is that the former considers the feelings, the rights, the ideas, and the thoughts of those with whom he lives and yet he refrains from exercising some of his rights in order not to inconvenience those who live in his community. Whereas, a savage does not care about other people; he will do what will please him if he has the physical power to do it.

Now training must be both of the mind and the heart. By heart I mean the soul; by that I mean our moral, being; and the training of the moral being in us is more important than that of the mind. The place where you should start the spiritual revival of the Filipino people should be in the school, be it the primary, intermediate, secondary, and normal, and in college. It must start there. It is during the formative period of your character that you should be given a proper outlook of life.

I want to tell you that there are a few things very much more important than gold, comforts, and riches—and those tire ideals. A man or a woman who has no ideals in life lives like an animal. He may be a millionaire and he may have automobiles, a palace, and a yacht, but he will be just like an animal unless he has ideals and his spirit is

satisfied. The value of a people is not measured by its material possession but by its moral character. However poor a people may be, if they are composed of men and women who are good, honest, industrious, and morally and physically courageous, they will still be respected. No strong nation in the world will just agree to having her people subjugated if their moral fiber is of the first class. If you read the history of mankind you will find that the people who became great were those who possessed great moral virtues, and after they reached the peak of their moral greatness which, as a matter of course, was also accompanied by their greatest material prosperity, their decadence began.

Rome's death was pronounced on the very day that Rome owned the known world because Rome then began its materialistic life. Yet for centuries the Roman Empire was the admiration of the world, and for some centuries more the Roman eagle spread its wings over outlying provinces and territories; but Rome was already dead. It was only a question of time before she crumbled; theanay had gotten into the edifice of the body politic to do its destructive work. Finally the day came and Rome fell. So it has been with other nations. Spanish historians called the sixteenth century the cultural period of Spain; it was then the beginning of Spanish decadence. The historians called it the golden period because all the world then was practically hers. She had possessions in America, in Australia, in Europe, in Africa, and everywhere else. She was the greatest colonial empire at the time and yet it was the period when Spain was nearing her death.

Comparatively speaking, the Filipino people have made a tremendous material progress during the last forty years. We have become a rich country so that we have much material prosperity now. Our people have become frivolous. Clubs in the Philippines are organized for no other purpose than dancing. The whole year we are only thinking of having a good time. Well, everybody is entitled to a good time, and, as a matter of fact, I have never grown old, perhaps, because I know how to enjoy after a hard day's work. But I don't waste my life just singing, dancing, and running around. I work as long as I have something to work on, sometimes until late in the night. I enjoy a relaxation, and enjoy it more, after a hard work. We must have a balanced life consisting mainly of work and pleasure. But let us work more and enjoy less. Work is the greatest thing in life. Therefore, we must not feel ashamed when we work. It seems that others feel proud when they do nothing. I am afraid that many of us have been badly influenced by that story in the Bible in which the Lord punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience by making them work and live by the sweat of their brow. I am a scholar of the Bible but I have a different interpretation of those words. I do not think that God created man and woman just to waste their life here—live in paradise, eat the fruit, and do nothing the rest of the day. I don't think that work was part of their punishment for disobeying Him. God created man to be man. That the man must live a high and noble life, a life of ideals, a life of usefulness, and a life of service, is what He meant. You ought to be proud when we can say that we spend our life in working. It is the greatest title.

I will tell you a story. Many young men have come to me to ask for a job. "What can you do?" I asked.

"Oh, everything, anything," was their ready reply.

"What do you mean? You are a marvelous fellow!"

"I just want a salary to support myself," they answered.

"You are not looking for a job, you are looking for a salary. I am going to give you a job if you can show me that you really want to work. Go to the Mayor of the City and tell him to give you the work of sweeping the streets; then come back to me." None, not one, has come back to me yet. [Laughter] On the other hand, one morning while I was talking on the Palace grounds I saw a clean, nice-looking, young man carrying a heavy piece of wood. He was barefooted. My attention was attracted, so I called him, "Why are you working?" I asked.

"I have to make a living, Mr. President," he answered.

"How much do you get?"

"One peso a day, sir."

“Have you been to school?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Are you still going to school?”

“Yes, sir, I am in the high school.”

“Why do you have to work this way; do you not have a father and a mother?”

“I have, Mr. President, but my father lost his job sometime ago, so he and I have to work.”

Then I told him to leave his work and see Secretary Vargas. I told Secretary Vargas to give him a better work.

Now that boy has a fine job; that boy is going to be a man; and as long as I can help him I will help him. He did not come to me for a good job; but he needed work to help his father.

Now and then I get dozens of letters recommending some boys for some jobs. I asked them to come to me. They thought that I am an easy fellow and I give work to everybody who comes to me. I have a very soft heart but I have a strong will-power, and I will not help a boy to become lazy and easy-going. It is not good for him. I like to see boys sweep the streets; I did that work. You know I worked in the rice-fields; I waited at table; I did a lot of odd things. I passed nights without any food. So why can't others do what I myself did?

I am going back. I want the teachers to watch closely the conduct of their pupils. You must help them to be courteous; show them their duties and make them comprehend that duty is more important than knowledge. I expect the division superintendent, the school principles, the district supervisors, and all classroom teachers to join hands with me in my efforts to make both the present and the coming generations responsible people. I want you, young men and young women, to be the right kind of men and women who will be able to assume that burden which our people will face once we are an independent nation. True patriotism does not consist in shouting your love for your country. True patriotism is shown in your everyday life. True patriotism does not consist in shouting that you are willing to die for your country. We are not bound to be heroes all the time; nor is there an opportunity to be heroes every day. Just do your duty every day and you will be patriots. As a student your duty is to study well and as a man to be good. Your duty is to work well until you become a good citizen. And don't give too much importance to clothing, good eating, and pleasure. Eat enough to keep you healthy, dress well to look decent, enjoy enough to give your spirit emotion and your nerves relaxation, but all the time you must have an objective in your life, have an idea—a noble idea—and pursue it. [Applause]

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon on tax on coconut trees, oil excise tax, and politics in the Government, August 26, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On tax on coconut trees, oil excise tax, and politics in the Government**

[Delivered in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, August 26, 1938]

TAX ON COCONUT TREES, OIL EXCISE TAX, AND POLITICS IN THE GOVERNMENT

The most important thing in a government which is just as important as in an individual, is to make its word good.

The most important thing a mayor should be is to be honest.

The police should not be used for political purposes. Nor should they be used as messengers,

The policeman is the representative of the authority of the mayor. He is not a muchacho or a messenger; he is the agent of the law and the people will not respect the law unless they respect the policemen. The people must show their respect for the law and the police, but they will never respect the police unless the latter are treated as agents of the law.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Governors, People of Cagayan:

I will talk to you for a few minutes this morning. I have done much talking during the last five days that I can hardly do it now. I am happy to be here again and thankful for your warm reception. I am particularly happy to know from the mayor of this town that when you had a fire here the public-spirited men voluntarily contributed for the relief of the victims; so that when the Red Cross help came it was no longer needed, for your own people took care of the needy. This is the first time that I have heard it said that the people of a town declined to accept a help that was being given to them because they themselves had already done what was necessary. That speaks very highly of the people of Cagayan, and I am positive that if every town in the Philippines feels as you do the responsibility that every man and woman has for a fellow man and fellow woman, this country of ours would be able to survive any catastrophe. However, I just want to ask the mayor whether the Red Cross help came on time or not.

The mayor also points out proudly to the fact that the improvements in this town were accomplished through the efforts of the municipal government. I want to extend to the mayor and the people of Cagayan my heartiest congratulations. I am not going to investigate now whether the mayor is right or not in his direct complaint against the provincial board; I will leave that for a later time when I meet all the town mayors at the provincial building. But I feel that the mayor is right in expecting the provincial government to do something for the capital of the province. The capital is placed in a different position from the other municipalities of the province, and, therefore, it is entitled to some special help from the provincial government.

I have received from the coconut growers a petition for relief by doing away with the taxes on coconut trees. I am told that Cagayan's main industry is coconut. I suppose you all know that I come from Tayabas which is a province that depends entirely upon the coconut industry. I suppose you will believe me when I say that I am as much interested in my home province as you are interested in your own province. And, of course, I know what is

happening to you for I know what is happening to the people of Tayabas. I am sorry to tell you, however, that I have never been able to afford any relief to the province of Tayabas. Is that an answer to your request? (Laughter)

Now I want you to understand the situation. Of the oil excise tax which is levied and collected in the United States, every cent is returned to the Government of the Commonwealth. From this tax we have been able to accumulate over one hundred million pesos which are now being spent to open roads, mainly in Mindanao, and to build schools. Part of that money will also be used to carry out a program of economic development which will permit the Philippines to face, without much harm to ourselves, the change that will come about when complete independence is granted and the free trade relations between America and the Philippines are fully terminated. In returning the oil excise tax to the Philippines, Congress provided that the Government of the Philippines shall not, directly or indirectly, help the coconut industry. The Government of the Commonwealth, with the cooperation of President Roosevelt, opposed the imposition of the oil excise tax. I personally appeared before Congress to oppose the excise tax on oil, but Congress levied the tax despite the opposition both of the President and our own. Once the tax has been levied, Congress could have retained that money for the Treasury of the United States but it did not; it gave the money to the Philippines only on condition that we shall not help the coconut industry. In this situation, what should we do? Should we lose that money if we could not get Congress to amend the law imposing the tax upon us? Do you want to see the coconut tax collected in the United States and the money not given to us? There is only one answer to that. If we have to pay we had better get the tax now. Do you think I will be doing my duty to my country and to you if I relieve the people of Cagayan and my province from the payment of the tax at the cost of losing millions of pesos a year? After all how much tax does a man who owns one hundred coconut trees pay a year? How much do you get out of the one hundred coconut trees, even at the lowest price? Mayor, answer that question. ("About forty pesos a year is the gross income because we get from ten to twelve pesos for every one thousand nuts," was the reply.)

Since no tenants are employed, you people ought to make more money. But the trouble is that the owner of the land in our country does not work. Now suppose you get fifty pesos out of the one hundred trees, what do you do with the money? Do you separate the money with which to pay your tax? The trouble with us is when we have money, we first hold a town fiesta; we invite friends for a good lechon for which we spend our money; then we go to the cockpit. In other words, we attend first to our social duty, thus forgetting our main duty—to pay the tax. If you work your land you will have money to pay the tax. But this is what happens here. A man who owns land does not work. He learns singing and dancing, he goes to the cockpit, and he enjoys a good time. There are only two kinds of people in our country; the rich who manages his own interest and the poor. In our country the middle class does not work. For this reason, the Philippines would never be able to fight the present tragic economic struggle unless our middle class works. I am positive that many of those listening to me today don't work at all during the year. (Laughter) If the middle class ever works it is in an office but never in the farm where they get soiled; they do not want to work in their shirts. I worked in the farm of my father. As I see it, our main trouble is that we expect the Government to give us everything. We expect it to build roads for us and give us employment. Most of the time we only smoke cigarettes; we don't work at all; so that when the time comes to pay taxes we don't want to pay because we have nothing to pay them with. Who is going to give us money? The days when God sent manna are gone.

I sympathize with the situation of the coconut industry; I know that this industry is in a very bad plight. My own people are suffering tremendously from it. My heart is with you. I wish I could do something for you. I will tell you something which I don't want published in the papers. By the way, is there any newspaperman here? Well, anyhow I will tell the post-office not to send any telegram concerning this point.

The Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs has recommended to Congress to continue giving us the money of the oil excise tax but without the provision that the money may be used to help the coconut industry or the coconut producers. If we do something now that would make Congress believe that we are not complying with its present injunction, Congress may not make the proposed change. So I counsel you to be patient; wait for one year more, for I think Congress will listen to our request to use the money from the tax on coconut oil to help the coconut industry and that from the excise tax on sugar for the sugar industry. We cannot violate the condition imposed by Congress because we have promised to comply with it.

My fellow countrymen: I want to tell you that the most important thing in a government which is just as important as in an individual, is to make its word good. No people will respect our Government if it fails to comply with its

solemn promise. The Government of the Commonwealth is pledged not to use that money directly or indirectly to help the coconut growers. It is my solemn duty to make that promise good, and nothing that can happen to me will ever make me break it. It is my first duty to maintain the good name of the Philippines; it is my first duty to show the world that the Filipino people can make their word good and I am going to comply with that duty no matter what happens to me. Again I am sorry I cannot grant the petition of the coconut growers here. I am glad I come from Tayabas. If I were from Negros I would be ashamed to appear before you now. I have a coconut plantation of about 3,000 trees. Several years ago I could get from two to three thousand pesos a year from it, but now I get only two hundred pesos. Since I am another idle fellow because I don't work, I don't receive anything else. See what happens to an idle man?

I want to tell you, mayors and government officials, that I don't want politics in the Government. I want to explain to you what I mean. I want the governor and the mayors to realize that once they are elected they cease to be the spokesmen of a political party in the Government or the protectors of their political associates. Once you are elected to office you are a governor or a mayor; but you are not a governor of a party; you are the governor of the province or the mayor of your municipality. That means that you must govern with a view to serving the best interests of your town or province, as the case may be. I understand why a man in politics need have political friends; while this is right, yet you should not make your political friends feel that they have the right to seek your help if they violate the law or commit an injustice against their fellowmen. I don't want the Government of the Philippines to be a government of politicians. I want it to be a government of public officials sworn to do their duty in accordance with law. Our people will never know how good the intentions of the National Government are unless the governors and the mayors, through their conduct, make them see that the purpose of the National Government is to render the utmost service to all the people and to give them the best and most honest government all the time. The most important thing a mayor should be is to be honest.

I have taken the police from the Department of the Interior during these days of reorganization. I am going to give back the control of the police to the municipal mayors. But the police should not be used for political purposes. Nor should they be used as messengers. The police force has been the most discredited organization in the Philippines. The members are looked upon as mere messengers of the town mayor. They are made to do things which are out of their duty and which humiliate them. Gentlemen, the policeman is the representative of the authority of the mayor. He is not a muchacho or a messenger; he is the agent of the law and the people will not respect the law unless they respect the policeman. The people must show their respect for the law and the police, but they will never respect the police unless the latter are treated as agents of the law. I want to raise the standard of the police. If I find out that the governor or the mayor makes use of the police either as messengers or for political purposes, I will remove him.

The most important government position in the Philippines is occupied by the justice of the peace. I want the justices of the peace and all their colleagues to hear me. The poor people in the Philippines can only form a good opinion of our administration of justice by the manner justice is administered to them. They don't know anything about the Supreme Court; they only know about the justice of the peace court. I don't want the justices of the peace to mix in politics any longer. I know this happened in the past; but, from now on I don't like it done any more. I approved the recommendations for the appointment of justices of the peace made by the members of the National Assembly, but I don't want the justices of the peace to be the political leaders of the assemblymen. And I want to tell you that no member of the Assembly or the Supreme Court or even the Secretary of Justice can save the justice of the peace who is caught mixing in politics. If a justice of the peace does not like to help an assemblyman, he need not fear because he will not be removed. If you hear that I am interested in the election of a candidate, don't help that man, otherwise I will remove you from office. That is not pleasing me. You can please me by doing your duty well and not violating the law. You can be my best friend if you can comply with the law, but you will be my worst enemy if you violate the law.

Now, gentlemen, let us get together, I need your help in my desire to give the people a good and clean government. I want you to help me—you are my representatives here. The mayors must have the tenientes del barrio inform the people in the barrios of what the government is doing for them. You must protect your people—that is your greatest service, that is what you were elected for.

I will stop here, and, please, remember that I want you to help me give our people a good, clean, and honest government. It is in this way that I will help and support you. /Applause/

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Development of Lanao, August 28, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

DEVELOPMENT OF LANAO

[Delivered at the Provincial Building at Camp Keithley, Dansalan,
Lanao, on August 28, 1938]

People of Lanao:

I am very glad to have another opportunity to see you. I am very thankful that you have all come to meet me today.

We have started on a program of developing Mindanao. And with particular reference to this province, we are opening a good road to connect you with Cotabato. You know that we are building a road around your lake here. This is being done with the purpose of helping you improve your province and the conditions under which you live. I want everyone of you to know that we are trying to govern you exactly as we are governing the other provinces of the Philippines. We are as much interested, if not more, in your progress as in that of the Christian provinces. For centuries you have not had roads that permitted you to go around the country comfortably. Now we are going to give you all the comforts and facilities that the other towns in the more advanced parts of the Philippines have. But you must cooperate with the Government; you must start a new life of work for your own province.

It is our interest to see that every man in this province, no matter how poor or lowly he may be, should get the benefit of his own work. You are not going to live only to work for other people. I want everybody who works to get the fruits of his labor. I do not want any man to be exploited by his fellowmen. Before the law every man in the Philippines, whether he lives in a Christian or Mohammedan region or not has an equal opportunity. There are no other authorities except those created under the law. I know that the social organization in the Mohammedan provinces recognizes the status of a datu. I am willing to recognize a datu, but I don't want any datu to believe that his title gives him special privileges or any authority over the men who live in his vicinity. The only people who possess authority are those who are duly appointed under the law to hold office. If a poor Moro is given a position in the Government, even though he has no title, his position must be respected by everybody. And the Moro who has rights, no matter how poor or humble he may be, will be recognized and protected by the Government against everybody, including the officials of the Government itself.

Now, what I want to tell you this morning is this: I want you to live peacefully. I want you to work and make this province rich; and I want you to be benefited by the development of this province. Don't let anybody commit abuses against you. If anybody abuses you, report him to the proper authorities, and I give you my word that a public official who abuses his authority will be punished by me. I want you to realize that I am interested in your welfare, that I have no prejudice against you, that I am not going to favor a Christian Filipino simply because you are against him, that if you are right I will stand by you whoever your opponent may be, even if he is my friend. I want you to feel that the Government of the Philippines is your own government, the President of the Philippines your President, and that your President and your Government are anxious to serve you and to improve your conditions.

After luncheon I am going to meet the officials of Lanao in the government building. I am meeting them in order that I may know how conditions in Lanao are and also what your needs are. I am meeting them so that they may tell me whether any official of the Government is doing his duty well or not.

Now, before I close, I want to say one word about Assemblyman Cabili. But, remember, I am not going to mix in your local politics. Neither will I permit any appointive official to take part in your politics here. I want the people of this province to be free in their elections when they are electing an official, whether municipal, provincial, or national. I don't want the appointive officials of this Government to mix in your elections.

What I am going to say about Assemblyman Cabili has no political purpose; I just want to say that he has done his duty by you, that he has worked as much as any other member of the National Assembly. He has worked not only for his district but also for the nation at large.

Now, in about one and a half hours, I will be ready to meet the officials of this province in the provincial building, and if there is anybody who has something to tell me I will be glad to hear from him too.

Just wait for a minute. I see something there that I don't like. Now you know I am a good friend of Sa Ramin, but I don't like to read what you have there—that the faction of Sa Ramin wants him to be the governor of Lanao. I am not going to appoint anybody as your governor if he is going to be the governor of one faction. If I appoint a governor, I want him to be the governor of everybody. The governor of this province as well as that of any other province in the Philippines represents the National Government in his province; the National Government has no factions or parties to serve. The National Government is the government of all the people, regardless of their political affiliation. So the governor of a province must be the governor of all the people of that province, regardless of their political affiliation. I want to appoint Mohammedan governors for the Mohammedan provinces as soon as possible. I have already appointed one in Jolo, but I am not going to appoint a Mohammedan governor in a Mohammedan province if he will only be a governor for one faction and against other factions.

In order that you may have your own governor who is a Mohammedan Moro, you must first unite among yourselves so that your governor will be the governor of all of you. You know that Sa Ramin is a good friend of mine, but I am not going to favor him or his friends as against their political opponents, because my personal friendship with him has nothing to do with my official position. As President, you are all my friends; nobody is more, nobody is less. So I counsel those partisans of Sa Ramin to stay quiet, otherwise they may do him more harm than good. You can only convince me that I should appoint Sa Ramin when I am convinced that he has no faction among you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on the Appointment of Governor Ombra and Government Policies for Sulu,
August 30, 1938**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Appointment of Governor Ombra and Government Policies for Sulu**

[Delivered at the Provincial Building, Jolo, Sulu, August 30, 1938]

Under our government, all the religions have, and are on an equal footing. The Government has nothing to do with religion. Its duty is to serve the people regardless of their religion.

Work alone dignifies a man.

Gentlemen:

I just want to say a few words to you this evening. Since the inauguration of Governor Ombra, this is my first visit to Jolo. I feel very proud of the fact that I appointed the first Moro Governor of Jolo. I hope the people of Jolo, both Christians and Mohammedans, consider this appointment as a compliment which I have paid to the residents of this province because in so appointing Governor Ombra, the National Government has given full recognition to the capacity of the people of Jolo to govern this province.

Before appointing Governor Ombra, I made clear to him the policies of the National Government in reference to the territory mainly inhabited by Mohammedan Filipinos. I told Governor Ombra that I was appointing him governor of Sulu in recognition of his ability as well as of his honesty and public spiritedness. I told Governor Ombra that he should be doubly careful in complying with the duties of his office because the appointment of another Moro as governor will entirely depend upon the manner in which he performs the office of the governor.

I told Governor Ombra that I demand from him, principally, two things: first, that he should be absolutely impartial; second, that he should be rigorously honest. By being impartial, I mean that he should forget any factional feelings on his part; that he should consider himself the governor of all Sulu; that it is his duty to serve all the people; that he should be fair to both his political friends and enemies. That in so impartially conducting himself, I expect him to prove to the National Government that a Moro can be depended upon to govern his province fairly and justly, and that, at the same time, he could show the people of the province that a Moro governor has no political friends or enemies for he is the friend of all his people. By being rigorously honest, I mean that Governor Ombra should not take advantage of his office for his personal gain or benefit; that the Government is paying him a salary and, therefore, he has no right to get more than what the Government is giving him; that he cannot, directly or indirectly, receive any other emolument much less take advantage of any resident of this province or use any Moro without paying for his service. So far I have not received any complaint against the administration of Governor Ombra; I hope I shall not as long as he is the governor and I am the President.

I am happy to see that the province of Sulu is very peaceful I am sorry that I did not let the governor know that I was coming so that he could have called the officials of the different municipalities of Jolo to meet me. But I don't like to bother the people and compel them to make long trips; that is why I did not do that. However, I expect the governor to carry my message to them.

The National Government is as much interested in your welfare as it is in the welfare and progress of any other province in the Philippines. You are making a lot of progress here every year. We are spending much money in building roads for you. Governor Ombra and Major Angeles have recommended to me the construction of another highway which I shall ask the Bureau of Public Works to build at once. We are going to provide you with all the opportunities for improvement that are within the power of the National Government to give. But, in return, we expect you to be good citizens, to comply with the laws and orders of the Government, to work for your own good, and to let your children take advantage of the opportunities given them in the schools.

We could not have given the Mohammedan people of Mindanao and Sulu a better evidence that we are treating them exactly like the Christians than by giving you a Moro governor. Following this step every Moro province will be governed exactly as the Christian provinces are being governed. We expect the Moros to feel that they constitute a very important element of the whole Filipino people.

Our difference in religion does not mean anything. Under our Government, every man is entitled to worship his own religion. Under our government, all the religions have, and are on, an equal footing. The Government has nothing to do with religion. Its duty is to serve the people regardless of their religion. Now, as long as you are peaceful, we will help you. But any defiance to the authority of the Government will be met with force.

I wish you all success, prosperity, and peace, I congratulate you for the appointment of a Moro governor. I wish Governor Ombra success. I congratulate him for the great honor of being the first Mohammedan governor in the Philippines.

My words at the provincial building early this evening were addressed mainly to the Mohammedan inhabitants of Jolo. I am going to address myself particularly to the Christians of Jolo who are listening to me now.

For a long time you had as governors here, first the Americans and lately a Christian Filipino. Jolo had several American governors from the first day that the American troops landed here until the first year of my administration. I was told that it would be unsafe to appoint a Filipino governor for this province, yet I appointed Major Angeles as your first governor. Major Angeles made a very good governor; I was very much pleased with his work; and I now take advantage of this opportunity to make public recognition of the services he rendered as governor.

But I was not satisfied with merely having a Filipino Christian governor for Sulu. I have shown already to the world that you can be governed by an army officer. So I went a step further in my desire to show the world that you can be governed by a Mohammedan civilian. Now I want to say to the Christian Filipinos who are here that it is their duty to give their cooperation and support to the administration of Governor Ombra. If the past had shown that you have always been good citizens of Jolo, then you must be doubly good citizens now. I want you to show the Mohammedan Filipinos that you can respect them as much as you can respect a Christian Filipino. By your deeds I want you to show the Mohammedan inhabitants of the Province of Jolo that we do not discriminate against them because we are all Filipinos bound to one, and only one, race and to perform the same duties before the law.

I expect Governor Ombra to be a good governor. I have told him that he can look to no greater compensation for his service than the recognition that he had been a good governor of his province. I want Governor Ombra to be, above all, impartial, just, and fair. I want him to devote himself unselfishly to the service of the people of Jolo. As long as he acts in this way, he will have all the backing, all the support, all the confidence of the National Government.

I want him to be my spokesman in every corner of this beautiful island. I want him to visit every hut in every village of the island of Jolo. I want him to show me that the real Joloano can ride on horseback to reach the remotest places. When I was as young as Governor Ombra I was a governor myself. When I was governor of Tayabas we had no roads as you have now. At the time there was no automobile in the Philippines, yet I visited every barrio of my province, and my province, mind you, is at least fifty times larger than this Island of Jolo. I went through all those barrios on horseback. I did that although I am not a Joloano. Now I want Governor Ombra, who is a Joloano, to do it.

I want him to explain to the people what this Government, which is also their government, is doing for them. I want him to tell them that the only interest of this Government, and its only objective, is to serve the people, to give them justice, end to help them to be more prosperous than they have been. I want him to tell them that they must live a peaceful life; that they must work because work alone dignifies a man. I want him to tell them that they must send their children to school so that they may learn the ways of good living. I want him to tell them that my heart is with the poorest Moro; that my only ambition is to see this country of ours progressive and prosperous, and our people living happily and contentedly.

Now, Christian Filipinos, help Governor Ombra. Show the Moros that you respect him, that you can cooperate with him. You are Joloanos; you should act like Joloanos, but without the kris. [Applause]

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon at a banquet given by His Excellency and Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon, in honor of Vice President Sergio Osmeña's sixtieth birthday anniversary, September 8, 1938 Speech

of

His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon

President of the Philippines

At a banquet given by His Excellency and Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon, in honor of Vice President Sergio Osmeña's sixtieth birthday anniversary

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, September 8, 1938]

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF VICE PRESIDENT SERGIO OSMEÑA*

Sergio Osmeña will go down in history as one of the greatest Filipinos.

He is by nature an evolutionist, and I have been all my life a revolutionist. He always built upon the past, while I always wanted to jump. . . . Inspired by a rebellious spirit, I always moved in a hurry,—never satisfied; I always wanted to go on without looking back; while he, ever measuring the distance, always looked ahead but without forgetting what was behind.

Mr. Vice President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are honoring tonight my friend and colleague, the Vice President, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of his birthday. I am very happy to be able to thus honor him.

The Vice President is a born statesman. He was hardly 28 years old when he was elected to the First National Assembly, and even at that time he proved himself to be the greatest statesman of his day. Sergio Osmeña will go down in history as one of the greatest Filipinos. He had the ability to interpret to the American people the ideals and sentiments of the Filipino people, and to the Filipino people the purposes and objectives of the United States in the Philippines.

Sergio Osmeña came to power as the leader of the Nationalist Party, and, therefore, as the spokesman of the Filipino people in their struggle for independence. In his wisdom, he so ably presented to the United States those natural ambitions of his people which, from the beginning, America understood and appreciated; and in the thirst for freedom and liberty of the people of this country, there was not involved any antagonism or ill-feeling toward the United States. On the other hand, he had the ability to tell the Filipino people that America had come to the Philippines not to exploit or enslave them, but—in good faith—to help them attain the independence for which they had fought. Thus, he became the man who made it possible for America and the Philippines to work together and to accomplish that noble enterprise which is today the admiration of the world and the source of gratitude to the United States on the part of the Philippines. When history is written, the main credit for this great accomplishment will be given to Sergio Osmeña.

It so happened that the Vice-President and I have been friends ever since we were in college. We entered politics in the same year. We were elected provincial governors on the same day, and we took our oath of office on the same day; we were elected to the Philippine Assembly on the same day, and we took our oath of office on the same day. He was elected Speaker, the leader of that Assembly; and it was my privilege to cooperate with him. I was his leader on the floor, but I must say in frankness that while then I cooperated with Speaker Osmeña, it was he and he alone who conceived the policies of the party and determined how to carry them out. I am afraid that the majority of the young people now living have forgotten or have never known how much the Vice President has done for them, how

much of the freedom and advancement they enjoy today are due to the vision and unselfish service rendered to our common country by this man. Sergio Osmeña, as Speaker of the House in 1907, was practically the only man in that body who knew anything about legislative work, and the wonder of it all was that he had never been outside of his country, that he had never seen a legislative body at work, that perhaps he had read very little about democracy and the workings of democracy; and yet, none of our Assemblies, from the first to the last, has ever excelled that First Assembly, either in the ability of its members, in the character of the work accomplished, or in the patriotic spirit with which it served. It was all due to Sergio Osmeña. We were nothing but his collaborators.

It has been the irony of fate that it fell to my lot to have to fight his leadership after a long, continuous, and delightful association; but there had never been on my part, nor I think on his part, any ill-feeling in any political struggle in which we were engaged. Each did what he thought was right and his duty. As I look back to the days when for the first time the Vice President and I, loving each other as much as we did, found ourselves in opposite camps, the only explanation that I can find is the fact that we are temperamentally opposite. He is by nature an evolutionist, and I have been all my life a revolutionist. He always built upon the past, while I always wanted to jump. That and that alone was the cause of our misunderstandings. Inspired by a rebellious spirit, I always moved in a hurry,—never satisfied; I always wanted to go on without looking back; while he, ever measuring the distance, always looked ahead but without forgetting what was behind. It was only for this reason that we clashed; and so you find that at the end of every struggle, since there were never fundamentally serious differences in our aims and purposes, it has always been possible for us to join hands again.

Since I have been elected President of the Philippines, I have had the good fortune of having around me men who are loyal to me and who have worked unselfishly for the success of my administration; but nowhere have I found a more loyal and a more disinterested collaborator than in my old friend, Vice-President Sergio Osmeña.

Mr. Vice President, I hope the Filipino people will never forget how much they owe you. I know the Filipino people will never forget what they owe you. As for me, nothing that I can do now or in the future will ever repay you for the local cooperation you have given me.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to drink to the health and success of one of the greatest men that our country has produced—the Vice President.

*Following is the speech of Vice President Osmeña in reply to President Quezon's speech:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

No words can adequately express my gratitude and that of Mrs. Osmeña for this splendid token of friendship and esteem from the Chief of the Government and his distinguished wife. And if it is difficult to express my gratitude, it is even more difficult to give voice to the sentiments which arise within me on this occasion, because of the very generous expressions of affection and comradeship made by our beloved President in the course of his kind remarks. He and I have been associated together for many years, and I, no less than he, look upon the long road through which we have travelled together, with a feeling of real satisfaction.

I do not know what accomplishments could be ascribed to my credit at the time that a large share of the governmental responsibility fell on my shoulders when, thanks to President Quezon, I was elected Speaker of the Philippine Assembly in 1907; but I am certain that if there were any achievements then, all of them were due principally to him, because of his able collaboration and generous support. There was indeed an extraordinary difficult situation at the beginning in the organization of the Assembly as a result of the lack of experience among ourselves in the task which we were about to assume; but because of the intuitive and infallible instinct which guides nations in their struggle for liberty, there were not only elected to the first Philippine Assembly men of the old and the young generations, representing two important epochs in our national history, but, above all, these men constituted a very select group of great talent and proved patriotism. The presence of these men lightened the

responsibility, which was given to me, of interpreting the sentiments and ideals of the Assembly and of the nation as a whole.

I look upon the past with a deep feeling of gratitude appreciating the great help that was extended to me not only by the Philippine Assembly and its members, but also by many in that anonymous group of efficient public servants who fortunately were always at our disposal, and whose names are unknown but who have given, and are still giving, a valuable contribution to the cause of the country. Among the men who helped and elevated me to the high and unmerited position which I held, who supported and encouraged me, none was more loyal and none rendered a greater service than he who is now President of the Philippines, then my colleague in the Philippine Assembly.

President Quezon, with his great heart and the analytical power that is peculiarly his, has a theory to explain the disagreements we had—disagreements which never involved fundamental objectives. I wish to say in truth to you that during my leadership, there was not a single instance in which the President and I were not in accord on the fundamentals. It was remarkable indeed that throughout the long period of time during which we labored jointly and with the many problems that arose, we were in agreement not only when he was here and served as my right hand in the Philippine Assembly, but also when he was in the United States as Resident Commissioner and gave me the benefit of his counsel on public problems.

The main cause of our divergence of views at one time was the situation created by the Jones Law. When that law was approved, he showed his clearness of political vision and at the same time his personal disinterestedness when he suggested that I should present my candidacy for the Senate with a view to heading the upper chamber of the Philippine Legislature. Believing, however, in certain political theories which I entertained, I thought that the right place for me was not the Senate but the House of Representatives, because the leader of the majority party, in my opinion, should be in the chamber which is more representative of, and more sensitive to, the fluctuations of public opinion. This was an error. From the first day of the opening of the Senate, it was felt that sooner or later there would be a clash in the ranks of the majority for the simple reason that the political structure of the country had been changed by the creation of two new organs which were both responsible for, and representative of, the Filipino participation in the government matters. The Senate, as the upper chamber of the legislature, wished to affirm its personality, its prerogatives, and the House of Representatives in turn was not inclined to surrender its position of leadership. And this, I believe, was the basic reason for our disagreement. I always said to him afterwards: "Neither you nor I, but political circumstances, were responsible for the issue."

Through the vicissitudes of politics, the man who was my principal supporter, who aided me so greatly in the past, became my chief. After this change, I did not have the least hesitation in supporting him, because I recognized that the country had placed him in the position of leadership. And I wish to say to you that I have never been happier than in the days when I have followed the leadership of President Quezon. And, as he had been most loyal to me in the past and had given me his unconditional support,—in reality he made possible my career in the Assembly of Governors and later in the Philippine Assembly—I believed it was my duty to follow him when he assumed leadership of the Government, no matter if I were not in agreement with him in some of his plans or ideas. As a good soldier I followed and supported him; and I do not hesitate to say tonight—which to me is a night of gratitude and frankness—that, just as the President upheld me when I was the leader of the country and just as he had the courage to fight side by side with me and to face all kinds of responsibilities, so when the Senate had been organized and he became our leader, I was likewise disposed to appear before history as his follower, believing in his leadership and willing to share his defeats as well as his triumphs. There has been no instance in which I have not been found by his side once events had returned to their normal course. I have always been disposed to sustain his leadership; no conflicts have arisen in which he was not able to count upon my support; and whenever he has indicated to me my position to duty, I have never failed to fulfill my assignment, be it in the Philippines or in the United States, alone or with others. And now that he is the Chief Magistrate of the nation, now that for the first time, the Chief of our Government is ours, of our own race, who has been elevated to his position by the will of our people, I believe that my duty to be loyal is greater than ever. My regret is that I cannot do more because of my limitations. But the President knows that in the present situation when he is undertaking the gigantic task of national reconstruction and of preparing the country for independence, he knows, I repeat, that I am at his disposal at any time, and that neither the place nor the assignment matters. My loyalty to him is not merely personal, arising from our old friendship and comradeship which began in our student days and which has been maintained throughout the vicissitudes of our public career; it is based also on my faith in his leadership, on my firm conviction that under the

present circumstances the duty of every one who desires to contribute to the upbuilding of our nation is to cooperate firmly and resolutely with the present administration and thus assure its success.

Permit me to invite you to rise and drink to His Excellency, the President of the Philippines. Let us also drink to the health of the First Lady of the Philippines.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Address of President Quezon on the occasion of Vice-President Osmeña's birthday, September 8, 1938

**Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of Vice-President Osmeña's birthday**

[Released on September 8, 1938]

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

We are honoring tonight my friend and colleague, the Vice-President, on the occasion of the "THIRTIETH" anniversary of his birthday. I am very happy to be able to thus honor him.

The Vice-President is a born statesman. He was 28 years old when, he was elected to the First National Assembly and even at that time he proved himself to be the greatest statesman of his day. He had the ability to interpret to the American people the ideals and sentiments of the Filipino people, and to the Filipino people the purposes and objectives of the United States in the Philippines.

Sergio Osmeña came to power as the leader of the Nacionalista Party, as the spokesman of the Filipino people in their struggle for independence; and yet in his wisdom, he so ably presented to the United States those natural ambitions of his people, that America from the beginning understood and appreciated, that in the thirst for freedom and liberty of the people of these Islands, there was not involved any antagonism or ill-feeling towards the United States. On the other hand, he had the ability to tell the Filipino people that America had come to the Philippines not to exploit or enslave them, but in good faith, to help them attain the independence for which they had fought. Thus he became the man who made it possible for America and the Philippines to work and to accomplish that noble enterprise which is today the admiration of the world and the source of gratitude for the United States on the part of the Philippines. When history is written, the main credit for this great accomplishment will be given to Sergio Osmeña.

It so happened that the Vice-President and I have been friends ever since we were in college. We entered politics in the same year. We were elected provincial governors on the same day; we took our oath of office on the same day; we were elected to the National Assembly on the same day, and we took our oath of office on the same day. He was elected Speaker, the leader of that Assembly, and it was my privilege to cooperate with him. I was his leader on the floor, but I must say in frankness that while I cooperated then with Speaker Osmeña, it was he and he alone who conceived the policies of the party and determined how to carry them out. I am afraid that the majority of the young people now living have forgotten or have never known how much the Vice-President has done for them, how much of the freedom and advancement they enjoy today are due to the vision and the unselfish service rendered by this man to our common country. Sergio Osmeña, Speaker of the House in 1907, was practically the only man in that body who knew anything about legislative work, and the wonder of it all was that he had never been outside of his country, that he had never seen a legislative body at work, that perhaps he had read very little about democracy and the workings of democracy; and yet, none of our Assemblies, from the first to the last, has ever excelled the First Assembly, either in the ability of its members, in the character of the work accomplished, or in the patriotic spirit with which it served. It was all Sergio Osmeña. We were nothing but his collaborators.

It has been the irony of fate that it fell to my lot to have to fight his leadership after a long continuous, delightful association, but there has never been on my part, nor I think on his part, any ill-feeling in any political struggle in which we were engaged. Each one of us did what we thought was right and our duty. When I look back to the day when for the first time the Vice-President and I, loving each other as much as we did, found ourselves in opposite camps, the only explanation that I can find is the fact that we were temperamentally opposite. He was by nature an evolutionist and I have been all my life a revolutionist. He always built upon the past and I always ignored the past. He never took but one step at a time, and I always wanted to jump. That and that alone was the cause of our

misunderstandings. I moved and was inspired by a rebellious spirit, always in a hurry, never satisfied, wanted to go on without looking back; and he, always measuring the distance, always looked ahead but without forgetting what was behind. It was for this reason only that we clashed, and so you find that at the end of every struggle, since there never were fundamentally serious differences in our aims and purposes, it has always been possible for us to join hands.

Since I have been elected President of the Philippines, I have had the good fortune of having been surrounded by men who have been loyal to me, who have worked unselfishly for the success of my administration; but nowhere have I found a more loyal and more disinterested collaborator than in my old friend, Vice-President Sergio Osmeña.

Mr. Vice-President, I hope the Filipino people will never forget how much they owe you. As for me, nothing that I can do now or in the future will ever repay you for the loyal cooperation you have rendered to me.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to drink to the health and success of one of the greatest men that our country has produced, the Vice-President.

Reprinted from *The Philippine Social Science Review*, November, 1938, v. 10, no. 1, p. 311-313.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on the excise tax on coconut oil, the coconut industry, and the rice situation,
September 20, 1938**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the excise tax on coconut oil, the coconut industry, and the rice situation**

[Delivered at the Tayabas Provincial Capital, Lucena, Tayabas, September 20, 1938]

The trouble with us Filipinos is that we forget what is truly our own.

We can have no remedy for our livelihood unless we ourselves make it. Let us do away with laziness, discrimination against manual labor, and government aid; the people, not the Government, should take care of themselves.

Work is not a punishment of God to man; it is a blessing, because work gives man his life.

We should strive to work, we should forget foolish pleasures and stop wasting time in town fiestas.

Let us place our hopes in our bone and brawn, in our individual industriousness.

One of our shortcomings is that we permit others to handle the rice industry for us, and they are the ones who make a lot of profit. The profiteers are like a saw; the saw eats be it pulled up or pushed down, and we Filipinos are the ones being eaten.

Mr. Governor, Province-mates:

I have paid you a visit to let you know how the law on the excise tax on coconut oil was enacted.

On my last trip to Mindanao, the people of Cagayan de Misamis asked me to remedy the precarious situation of the people who depend on the coconut industry. To them I gave the following reply: "You know that I come from Tayabas, a province which is essentially dependent on the coconut industry. You should realize that if I only could do something to abolish the coconut oil excise tax, you would not find it necessary to tell me so." That answer of mine to the people of Cagayan de Misamis significantly showed that it is not within my power to do away with the oil excise tax.

To you, people of Tayabas, I propound the following questions: Is there anyone among you who would not exert his best efforts to bring about an improvement in copra prices? And who among you will dare say that he can do what really cannot be done? If anyone contemplates doing either, I shall stay away from the Province of Tayabas.

You should understand, you should believe me when I say there is no suffering which you feel that I do not also feel. If I have desired to serve the country, the more has been my desire to serve the Province of Tayabas, because it is there where I first saw the light of day and also because you, its people, were the first to help me attain the public position I hold today. You must understand that if I have not done anything so far to improve the price of copra or to remove the excise tax, it is because two years ago the prices of copra arose up at the very time when the excise tax was already in force. Within the first year after Congress had passed the tax on coconut oil, the prices of our copra surpassed those which had prevailed during the World War. You cannot deny, therefore, that the excise tax is not to blame for the present low copra prices, for if such were true those prices would have never risen anymore.

The Price of any of our export commodities depends upon the foreign market. Copra, as you all know, is sold in the United States, not here. Its price is set by the purchasing country and by other oil-selling competitors; it is not fixed by the Commonwealth Government. IF our copra were only sold and consumed here, we could then name our prices. Since it is not sold here, can we then say to our foreign buyers that this or that should be the price for our copra? Or can we tell them that we will not sell them our product if they cannot meet our price demands? What shall we do if nobody pays the price we ask? Would it not be folly for the Government to buy copra at a high price only to sell it later at a reduced cost? Will copra price in Tayabas improve if the product is purchased with government money? If I could only do something to help you, I would not even mind my own living. Why shouldn't I do so for the Province of Tayabas? You have, since the very beginning, shown me loyalty and faith. You were the first to elect me to public office; the first also to elevate me. Could I then forget you?

When the United States Congress first planned to impose an excise tax on coconut oil, I appeared before that body and voiced opposition to the proposed measure. I requested the President of the United States to help prevent its enactment, and the President sent a message to Congress asking it not to pass the excise tax. Congress, nevertheless, passed the measure.

It would have been also possible for Congress, without anybody being able to stop it, to decree that the excise tax collection should accrue to the Treasury of the United States. However, I made the request that collections from the tax be returned to the Philippines. Congress granted this request, but it placed a proviso that upon return of the collections to us the money be not used to benefit the coconut planters; and should that proviso be violated, the refund of the excise collections would be stopped immediately. If I had not agreed to it, even under such restriction, the tax money would have remained in the United States. The power to decide the matter rested with them—not with us. And if I did agree to the refund—as it is being refunded today—even under a restrictive condition, is it not anyway for the welfare of the Philippines? The welfare of the Philippines, let me tell you, is also the welfare of Tayabas; hence, I believe I made no mistake in my decision regarding the excise tax refund.

We are receiving the excise tax refunds to the benefit of our Government. I may add that Tayabas is also benefiting from such refunds, for where would the two million pesos allotted to Tayabas for public works come if there were no excise tax? So far, that benefit is not apparent because the road contractions have not been completed yet. "That the Government cannot do, however, is to give you funds as aid to the coconut industry; if it does that we will lose the excise tax refunds. In this connection, you should also know that an excise tax is also levied on our sugar export to the United States. It is likewise prohibited to use these sugar tax refunds for the purpose of aiding our sugar industry.

One of the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs is to allow the Philippines to use the excise money, if the tax will not be abolished, to revise the coconut and sugar industries. During the closing work of the Preparatory Committee, I insisted that it recommend the Commonwealth Government be allowed to aid the coconut industry. It did so and even recommended the abolition of the excise tax. I cannot then be said to have done nothing, for I really did my best to obtain the amelioration of our coconut industry.

Speaking of Assemblyman Lavidès—like others, he is an assemblyman not only of his province but also of the whole Philippines. You should not blame, nor be angry at, Assemblyman Lavidès and believe that he has done nothing regarding the excise tax. The truth is, I almost reprimanded Lavidès for insisting on passing a law which would appropriate government funds to help the coconut industry. Had I agreed to it, Congress would have surely stopped the excise tax refunds. I know that Lavidès cannot be surpassed by any other man whom you may put up as candidate for the second district. And if you harbor any rancor for him because he was not able to push through any bill seeking to aid the coconut industry, then blame it on me for it was I who prevented him from doing so—as I would prevent any other assemblyman who should present a bill of the same nature. As before, I am ready to stand for my section because I know that any such legislation will be against the provisions of that Congressional measure.

I ask you to be indulgent for I am expecting that the United States Congress, in its January session, will agree to have the excise tax refund used in improving our coconut industry. Congress had, in the past, refused to do so because of the power and influence of competitors to our oil which sought to ruin to our coconut industry. Today, however, the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee graphically portrays the United States that unless we are given an opportunity to help our industry while the American flag still waves over us, the day of our independence

will be our coconut industry's doom! Do not wait for the United States to abolish the excise taxes on coconut oil and sugar. They will not do so and you should not expect them to. Let us hope that they will allow us to use the excise tax refunds to revivify our sugar and coconut industries because upon attaining our independence, collections from the tax—which will still remain—will no longer be refunded to us.

Citizens of Tayabas: Let me know in what way the Government will be able to help you. You need not mention road constructions and repairs, however, because we can do that in the manner we know how.

What we Filipinos should do is study the different possibilities of the coconut. We may even learn to supplement our rice with coconut products. The coconut, after all, is more nutritious than rice. When I was a young boy, we ate coconuts whenever we did not have any rice. Let us again make the bukayo (coconut sweetmeat) because it is very delicious. Also the matamis sa bao (coconut jelly). When I was a young student, I always asked money from my mother with which to buy matamis sa bao from the Chinese store near the school. The trouble with us Filipinos is that we forget what is really our own. We have so many needs and uses for our coconut. Why don't we rediscover them so as to increase not only export but also our local consumption of coconuts? The National Development Company has several expert chemists studying the different uses of the coconut; more important, however, is to have our own coconut planters take full initiative on this matter.

One of our defects is that when a proprietor has two hundred, four hundred or a thousand coconut trees, he no longer personally harvests his nuts or converts them into copra. Another man does the work for him; hence his income is lessened. In the United States the landowner farms his own land; here in our country many of our landowners spend their time in the town or in the cockpit.

We can have no remedy for our livelihood unless we ourselves make it. Let us do away with laziness, discrimination against manual labor, and government aid; the people, not the Government, should take care of themselves. Our properties are few, and if we refuse to work, what then will happen to us? In the United States, a single farmer tills and plants twenty-five hectares all by himself. That is possible there because he uses farm machines. We also can acquire and use farm machines if we should want to. The difficulty, however, is that many of us do not like to work. How many of us would like to push a plow? A great many think only of wearing costly suits; they have loathe to have their hands soiled. They think it is shameful to work. But I myself pushed a plow. I was neither afraid nor ashamed to do it! I pounded palay and I was very proud of my manual efforts. Work is not a punishment of God to man; it is a blessing, because work gives man his life.

I believe in a biblical narration, granting it was true, that had Adam and Eve—after creation—done nothing but eat luscious fruits, take pleasure in watching the beauties of nature, and in hearing the songs of birds or looking at the beatitude of the heavens and offering prayers, the number of people on earth would not have increased. But God blessed the people with work; Adam and Eve, therefore, also performed earthly labor resulting in the increase of population and the improvement of our world.

If a planter with a thousand coconut trees works his own grove, he will make bigger profits from his copra sales. That is the first secret of making a living; the more work we do the greater our profit. It is imperative, of course, that we work. If our land is small it is needless to hire a laborer because we can do it by ourself; if our land is big, however, then it is the time to call in hired help. We should strive to work, we should forget foolish pleasures and stop wasting time in town fiestas. As I notice it, we have too many saints to whom we offer feasts—fiesta for San Pablo, for San Juan, for San Antonio, and a host of other saints. And during those town fiestas we spend large sums of money. Every home has a heavily-laden feast table; but to tell the truth, although I do not mean all, many of those hosts simply borrow the money which they so lavishly spend.

What benefit will such a native custom give us? Rather than pay our land tax we put up a lavish fiesta, and if we are asked why we no longer have more money we answer: "Coconut prices are bad!" During fiestas we have lechón and delicious viands; we dress elegantly to be admired by friends and acquaintances; but after spending all our money on such merrymakings, we blame the Government for the low price of coconuts. The same thing—lavish feasting—is true during town and barrio weddings. We spend too much for wedding dresses! Why should we give a party at the wedding of an offspring when it is unnecessary to matrimony? I mean this: If we are marrying off a son or a

daughter, we need not invite the whole town, for surely we will have to feed them all. Frankly speaking, when my wife and I were married, we simply went to Hongkong without much ado,

We should think seriously about our future economy when our free trade relations with the United States are terminated. Prayers won't help us because God is always busy in heaven. We are the ones who ought to help ourselves. The Government cannot give us anything because the money of the Government comes from us. Whatever the Government plans are, it is best that we first do things for ourselves by stopping our habit of wasteful spending. If we don't do that, back to bondage we shall go even if we attain independence.

The might and strength of Japan do not come from her armies but from her national industries. I was in Japan when a flood and an earthquake occurred—calamities which, had they happened here, would have made Filipinos believe that the end of the world had come. But the Japanese still went on with their daily tasks, they did not stop working. Their lies strength of Japan. They love work—a virtue which we must acquire if we Filipinos want to preserve our national economy. Let us place our hopes in our bone and brawn, in our individual industriousness. Later we can pray for help from God and the Government.

I cannot remedy the low price of copra. The excise tax will not be abolished. I can only say that I vigorously opposed the excise tax plan when Congress first thought of it. When I gained nothing there, I asked that collections from the excise tax be refunded to the Philippines. I really did my best to have the money refunded to the coconut growers, but restrictions were imposed regarding the expenditure of such money. Nevertheless I still expect that such restrictions will be removed; and once that is realized, we will make appropriations for the establishment of different coconut enterprises that will profit to the people.

Let us make things clear. The assemblymen whom you may elect will not be able to do anything about the excise tax, for which reason, don't make Lavides the target of your ire. He did his best and nobody else could have done what Lavides did. What the Government and I can do is this: we will speed up the sending of funds here for road constructions so that those who are unemployed will be benefited. Last you don't know it, I have raised the wages of laborers. These men will receive ONE PESO a day once we start spending the two million pesos allotted to Tayabas. That is the only way I can help you. Next year all barrios will have school buildings and, in June, no poor man's child will be refused admission. There will also be enough public school teachers. All barrios will have their roads repaired or improved.

Commissioner Guinto told me that you also want to hear something about the rice situation. Let me inform you that the Government has established the NARIC so that the price of palay will not be so low nor the price of rice to high. One of our shortcomings is that we permit others to handle the rice industry for us, and they are the ones who make a lot of profit. The profiteers are like a saw: the saw eats be it pulled up or pushed down, and we Filipinos are the ones being eaten.

The NARIC cannot immediately remedy the present rice situation because retailing rice is not the hands of Filipinos; thus, whatever the NARIC does still retailers will always raise the price of rice. I know that in two days the NARIC will reduce the price of rice; but the price will not always be brought down unless there is justifiable reason for it. The men who run the NARIC have been appointed by the President and they are doing what they can for the people's benefit. I will dismiss them on the very day I see that they are not doing right. What happened in the past—when the price of rice soared so high that people were almost unable to meet it—will not happen today, for the minute the profiteers take advantage of any shortage in the local rice supply I will immediately place orders for Saigon rice.

Let me assure you that if it is only within my power to help you in your economic plight, I will never abandon you, my Tayabas province-mates. Love between you and me is mutual. I will do what I can within my powers and I leave the rest to you.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1938). [Excise tax on coconut oil, the coconut industry, and the rice situation]. University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library.

Speech of President Quezon on excise tax (Filipino)

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Manuel L. Quezon
Panğulo ng Pilipinas
sa
Unang Batasang Bansa
Ukol sa “excise tax”**

[Binigkas sa Kapitolio ng Tayabas noong ika-20 ng Septiembre, 1938]

G. Gobernador, mga Kalalawigan:

Akó’y dumalaw sa inyó ngayón upáng marinig sa aking bibíg ang bagay na nangyaro tungkol sa tinatawâg na “excise tax.” Sa huling pagdalaw ko sa Mindanaw, ang hiniling sa akin ng mga namamayan sa Lalawigan ng Kagayán de Misamis ay ang nauukol sa pagbibigay-lunas sa mahirap na katayuan ng nangabubuhay sa niyóg. Ang mga unang salitáng binitiwang ko sa pagsagot sa kahilingang yaón ay itó: nalalaman ninyó na akó’y taga-Tayabas, ang sabi ko sa mga taga-Kagayán de Misamis. Nalalaman ninyó na, ang Tayabas ay isáng lalawigang waláng ibáng ikinabubuhay kungdi ang niyóg. Dapat ninyóng akalain na kung akó’y may magagawâ upáng maalis ang “excise tax,” ay hindi kailangang akó’y hilingan ng mga taga-Kagayán de Misamis, pagka’t ang bagay na iyá’y dapat kong maramdamán. Ang sagot kong yao’y nagpapakilala sa mga taga-Kagayán de Misamis na walâ sa kamauy ko ang pag-aalis ng nasabing “excise tax.” Sapagka’t naniniwala silá na palibhasa’y taga-Tayabas akó, hindi kailangang humanap akó ng iba pang lulunas sapagka’t sa aking sariling kusa ay gagawín ko ang boong makakaya.

Ang una kong ibig itanóng sa inyong mga taga-Tayabas ay itó: Mayroon bang sino man sa ibutod ng inyong pusó, kung makabubuti rin lamang sa halagá ng kalibkib, ay hindi gagawâ ng kanyang makakayang gawín? Mayroon ba sino man sa inyó na makapangangahas magsabing gagawín niyá ang hindi magagawâ? Kung may nag-aakala ng gayon ay aalis akó sa lalawigan ng Tayabas.

Dapat ninyóng akalain,—dapat kayóng maniwala na walâ kayóng hirap na dinaramdam dito na di ko dinaramdam.—Kung akó’y nagnanasang maglingkod sa bayan, ay lalong dapat akóng maglingkod sa Tayabas, pagka’t itó ang lalawigang siya kong kinakitaan ng unang liwanag, at kayó ang unang tumulong sa akin upáng akó’y mapataas sa tungkuling hawák ko ngayón. Dapat kayóng maniwala na, kung hangga ngayo’y walâ akóng nagagawâ upáng mapahusay ang halagá ng kalibkib o maalis ang “excise tax,” ay dahil sa mga sumusunod: ¿Hindi ba totoo na mayroon lamang ngayóng dalawáng taón na ang halagá ng kopras sa Tayabas ay tumaas? ¿Hindi ba mayroon nang “excise tax” noon? Sa loob ng isáng taón noong ang Kongreso ng Estados Unidos ay nagpasiyá ng ukol sa “excise tax,” ay humigít pa ang halagá ng kopras sa naging halagá sa panahón ng digmaan. Waláng makatatanggí sa inyong sino man. Kung ang halagá ng kopras ay bumabâ, ang maykasalanan ay hindi ang “excise tax,” sapagka’t kung yaón ang totoo ay dí na sana tumas ang halagá ng kopras kailán pa man.

Ang halagá ng anó mang bagay na ipinagbibili sa labás ay sumusunód sa lakad ng pamilihan, at ang kopras ay nalalaman ninyóng hindi rito ipinagbibili sa atin kundí sa Estados Unidos. Ang halagá ng kalakal ay nagbubuhay sa ipinagbibili sa ibáng nasión at sa kaagaw ng ipinagbibili; walâ sa Pámahalaang Pilipino. Kung ang kopras sana ay dito ipinagbibili sa atin at dito rin ginagamit, maaari nating bigyan ng halagá. Ngunit hindi rito. ¿Maari ba nating sabihin sa nagsisilbí na gayón o ganitó ang dapat maging halagá ng kopras, o, sabihin sa ibáng namimili na kung hindi ganitó ang halagáng ibabayad ay hindi natin ipagbibili? ¿Anó ang gagawín kung waláng ibabayad sa halagáng ibig natin? ¿Maari bagána ang Pámahalaan ay bumili ng kopras sa mataas na halagáng ibig ninyó at pagkatapos ay ipagbili namán sa mababang halagá? ¿Maaari bang humusay ang halagá ng kopras sa Tayabas sa pamamagitan ng salapi ng Pámahalaan na siyang ibibili?

Kung mayroon lamang akóng magagawâ sa inyo, kahit kabuhayan ko’y hindi aalintanahin. ¿Anó pa ang aking hihintayin sa lalawigan ng Tayabas? Kayó, sa mulá’t sapúl, ay nagpakita na sa akin ng pagmamahál. Kayó ang unang naghalál sa akin at siya ring nagtaás. ¿Kayó pa ba ang malilimutan ko?

Iyáng “excise tax,” nang unang munakalain ng Kongreso ng Estados Unidos na pairalin at sumaklaw sa ating langis, akó’y humaráp sa Kongreso at tinutulan ko. Sa katunayan ay aking hiniling sa Pangulo ng Estados Unidos sa gamitin ang kanyang makakaya upang huwág mapagtibay ang “excise tax,” at ang Pangulo ay nagpadala namán ng isáng mensahe sa Kongreso upang huwag pagtibayin ang “excise tax”; nguni’t gayon pa man ay pinagtibay rin ng Kongreso.

Yaon ay maaari sanang pagkatapos na singilin sa Amérika ang “excise tax” ay maiwan sa Tesorería ng Estados Unidos nang hindi maaaring pigilan ang kamáy ng Kongreso sa kanilang pagpapasiyá. Datapwá’t hinihiling ko na kung maáari man lamang ay isáuli sa Pilipinas ang nasabing buwis. Sa gayó’y inilagáy namáng tadhaná ng Kongreso na kung mabalik na sa atin ay *hindi maaaring gamitin sa kapakinabangán ng magniniyóg*, sapagka’t kung magkakagayón ay puputulin ang pagbabalik sa Pilipinas ng nasabing buwis. Ang katayuan ko noon ay itó: kung hindi akó pumayag na isáuli ang “tax” na yaón, kailán pa ma’t hindi magagamit sa pagtulong sa magniniyóg, ang “tax” ay maiiwan sa Estados Unidos. ¿Dapat bang ginawâ ko yaón? Nasa kamáy nilá ang pagpapasiyá, walâ sa atin. Bukód diyán, halimbawáng sinang-ayunan ko ang pasiyá na huwág ipahintulot na makinabang ang magniniyóg sa halagáng ibabalik sa Pilipinas, at sa gayó’y patuloy na ibabalik sa ating Pámahalaan ang buwis na ating ibinabayad, ¿dí ba yao’y sa kabutihan din ng boong Pilipinas? Dapat nating akalain, na ang kabutihan ng bayang pilipino ay kabutihan ng lalawigang Tayabas, at inaakalá kong hindi akó nagkamali sa aking pasiyá.

Pagkapalibhasa’y hindi ko mapilit na ipagkaloob nilá sa magniniyóg ang boong pakinabang ng “excise tax,” tinatanggap ko ang halagáng ibinabalik sa atin upang pakinabangan ng ating Pámahalaan. Sa katunayan ay saan manggagaling ang dalawáng milyon na iniuukol sa Tayabas kundí sa “excise tax” ding iyan? Samakatuwid, ang Tayabas ay makikinabang din. Hindi pa lamang ninyó tinatanggap ang boong pakinabang ngayón, sapagka’t hindi pa natatapos ang pagpapahusay ng mga daan. Ang bagay na iyan ay ipinasiya na namin upang kayó’y makinabang din sa salaping inyong naibayad sa “excise tax.” Nguni’t ang hindi maaaring gawín ng Pámahalaan, o sa oras na gawín namin ang ganyan, ay mawâwala ang salapi sa “excise tax.” Babawiin sa atin ng Pámahalaan ng Estados Unidos, sapagka’t ang gayo’y labag sa ipinagutos niyá sa atin.

Dapat ninyóng malaman na ang asukal man ay may “excise tax” din. Ipinagbabawâl din na ang “tax” sa asukal, na ibinabalik sa atin, ay magamit sa industriya asukarera.

Kung mayroon dito sa atin na mga lalaking nagpapalagáy na silá’y malalakás na káya niláng lupigin ang Amérika, umuna na silá at gawín nilá ang kanilang magagawâ. Kung káya nilá ay silá ang magpauná at akó’y susunod, sapagka’t ipinagtatapat ko sa inyong hindi ko káyang lumaban sa Amérika. Nguni’t ang totoo, ang ating tapang ay sa mga miting lamang. Ang kailangan ay ipakilala natin sa gawâ at huwag sa bunganga, kung anó man ang ating káyang gawín.

Isá sa mga bagay na hinihiling ng Joint Preparatory Committee,” kung hindi maaalis ang “excise tax,” ay ipahintulot sa Pilipinas ang paggamit ng nasabing “excise tax” sa pagbibigay-buhay sa industriya ng niyóg at asukal. Sa katapusang gawain ng “Joint Preparatory Committee,” ay pinilit kong hingin nilá na pahintulutan ang Pámahalaang Pilipino sa pagtulong sa industriya ng niyóg. Iyan lamang ang aking masasabi sa inyo. Hiniling kong alisin ang “excise tax,” káya’t hindi masasabing hindi akó gumawâ, bagkus nagsikap upang mabigyan ng kapakanan ang industriya ng niyóg sa Pilipinas.

Si diputado Lavidés ay hindi lamang diputado ng kanyang lalawigan kundí diputado ng boong Pilipinas, katulad din ng ibá. Hindi ninyó dapat sisihin at kagalitan si Diputado Lavidés sa pagpapalagay na walâ siyang nagawâ tungkol sa “excise tax,” sapagka’t ang totoo, si Lavidés ay kaunti ko nang makagalitan sa Maynila dahil sa kanyang pagpipilit na magkaroon ng isáng “ley” na ang kahulugan ng batas na iyan ay kumuha ng salapi ng Pámahalaan upang tumulong sa industriya ng niyóg, sapagka’t kung akó’y pumayag sa kanya ay babawiin ng Kongreso ang salaping nagbubuhay sa “excise tax.” Nalalaman kong si Lavidés ay hindi mahihigitan ng sino mang ilalagay ninyó sa Ikalawâng Purok, at kung ang ikagagalit lamang ninyó sa kanya ay sapagka’t akó ang pumipigil sa kanya at sa sino mang diputado na magharap ng anó mang panukala na may kinalaman sa pagbawâs ng salapi sa “excise tax” upang iukol sa kapakinabangan ng mga magniniyog. At ang gayo’y aking pinaninindigan, sapagka’t nalalaman kong malalabag sa mga tadhana ng batas ng Kongreso.

Maghintay tayo ng kaunti, sapagka't aking inaaasahan o aking hinihintay na sa pulong ng Kongreso ng Estados Unidos sa Enero, ay maaari nang pumayag ang Kongreso na ang salapi sa "excise tax" sa langis ng niyog ay magamit sa ikabubuti ng mga magniniyog. kaya lamang hindi pumayag ang Kongreso noong araw ay dahil sa lakas noon ng mga kaagaw ng ating langis sa Amerika, na ang ibig nila ay mawasak ang ating industriya. Nguni't ngayon, sa ulat ng "Joint Preparatory Committee" ay ipinakikilala nang maliwanag sa Estados Unidos na kung hindi nila tayo bibigyan ng pagkakataon na matulungan ang ating mag industriya samantalang narito pa ang bandilang Amerikano, pag-dating ng kasarinlan ay mawasak ang kabuhayan natin dito. Huwag ninyong hintayon na kailan pa man ay alisin ng Amerika ang "excise tax" sa niyog at sa asukal. Huwag natin isipin iyan. Ang maaari lamang nating hintayin ay ipahintulot na ang salaping iyan ay magugol sa industriya ng asukal at sa niyog. Pagkakaroon natin ng Pagsasarili, ang "excise tax" ay ipagpapatuloy nang hindi na ibabalik sa atin. Ang "excise tax" na iyan ay hindi nila aalisin at tayo'y wala nang maasahan.

Ipaalam ninyo sa akin, mga kalalawigan, kung sa paanong paraan maaaring makatulong sa inyo ang Pamahalaan. Tungkol sa mga daan ay hindi kailangan ang magsabi kayo sa akin. Iyan ay magagawa namin, at kung paano ang aming gagawin ay kami lamang ang nakakaalam.

Ang kinakailangang gawin nating mga pilipino ay pag-aralan natin ang ibang mapag-uukulan ng niyog. Bakit ba tayong mga taga-Tayabas ay hindi nag-aaral kumain ng niyog at huwag lamang kanin? Iyan ay hindi biro. Ang niyog ay may halaga kaysa kanin. At saka noong ako'y maliit, kapag wala kaming bigas ay kumakain kami ng niyog. Ibalik natin ang paggawa ng bukay, pagka't ang bukay ay napakasarap. Gayon din ang matamis sa-bao. Pagka't noong ako'y nag-aaral ay lagi akong humihingi ng pera sa aking magulang upang kung nasa paaralan ay makabili lamang ng intsik ng matamis sa-bao. Ang kahirapan sa ating mga pilipino ay nakalilimot tayo sa talagang atin. Marami tayong mga bagay at kagamitang kauukulan ng niyog. Ang totoo'y kailangan nating ibalik ang ugali noong una. Kinakailangang humanap tayo ng iba't-ibang kauukulan ng niyog, hindi lamang upang iluwas sa ibang bansa kundi upang magamit natin dito.

Alamin ninyo ang "National Development Company" ay mmay mga teknikong nag-aaral ng iba't-ibang mga bagay na kauukulan ng nanggagaling sa niyog; at ang lalong mahalagang dapat nating gawin, ang may niyugan ay dapat mangatawan sa paggawa. Ang kahirapan sa ating mga pilipino, ang mga may-lupa ay ayaw magsigawa. Kapag may dalawang-daan na, apat-na-raan o isang libong niyog, ay hindi pa siyang kumakawit at gumagawa ng kopras, kaya't kakaunti ang pauwi sa kanya. Sa Amerika ang magsasaka (*farmer*) ay nagtatrabaho, samantalang dito sa atin ang ginagawa ng karamihan ay nagpapalipas ng panahon sa bayan, o sa sabungán.

Walang lutas ang ating kabuhayan kundi tayo ang gumawa. Alisin natn sa isipan ang katamaram at pagmamaselan, gayon din ang tulong ng Pamahalaan, sapagka't hindi ng Pamahalaan kundi ang mga tao ang dapat magsikap sa kanilang sarili. Kakaunti na ang ating pag-aari, ayaw pa tayong magbanat ng buto, ano ang mangyayari sa atin? Sa Amerika, ang isang magsasaka ay nakapaglililang at nakapagtatanim sa dalawangpu't limang ektareang lupa. Ang gayon ay nahahawa pagka't doon ay may makina sila. Nguni't maaari din namán tayong magkaroon at gumamit ng makina, kailan ma't iibigin natin. Ang masama sa atin ay ayaw gumawa ang karamihan. Sino-sino ba sa atin ang humawak ng araro? Ang karamihan ay walang iniisip kundi ang magbihis ng mahusay na damit, at natat akot mapuno ng putik ang kamay. Ang akala ay kahiya-hiya ang gumawa. Ang paggawa ay hindi parusa ng Dios sa tao, iyan ay biyaya sa tao.

Ako'y naniniwalang kun totoo ang sinasabi sa Biblia na nang likhain si Adan at si Eva ay walang ginawa kundi kumain ng masarap, mag-aliw-aliw sa pagmalas sa kagandahan ng Kalikasan at sa pakikinig ng hunihan ng mga ibon, o tumingala sa langit at magdasal ay hindi darami ang tao sa daigdig. Datapwa't ibiniyaya ng Dios ang paggawa sa tao, kaya't si Ada't si Eva ay gumagawa rin at dahil doon ay dumami ang tao at sa gayo'y naayo at lumusog itong Sangkalupaan.

Ako ma'y humawak din ng araro. Baka akala ninyo'y natatakot ang kamay ko sa araro! Nagbayo ako ng palay, at ipinagmamalaki ko na ako'y gumawa ng gayon. Kung ang may isang libong puno ng niyog ay siyang gagawa, ibayo ang kanyang kikitain. Iyan ang unang lihim ng kabuhayan, sapagka't diyan lamang ay ibayo na ang halaga ng kaniyang kopras. Mangyari pa ba, kailangang gumawa tayo. Gawin lamang ng maylupa ang pagkatawan sa ano mang gawain ay ibayo ang kaniyang pakikinabangin. Ang ibig kong sabihin, kung maliit ang lupa at kanyang sarilinin ang paggawa, ay hindi na kailangang iupa pa sa iba; at kung malaki namán ang lupa ay saka siya bumayad

sa iba. anópa't ang kailangang maging patakaran natin sa buhay ay ang paggawâ, at bawâsin o limutin ang mğa paglilimayon at pag-aaksaya ng panahon sa mğa pista ng bayan. Nguni't ang nakikita ko ay napakarami tayong santong ipinagpipista: pista kay San Pablo, San Juan, San Antonio, at kung sino-sino pang Santó. Sa mğa pistang iyan namán ay kimpal-kimpal na salapi ang inuubos natin. Nakikita ko rin sa mğa pistahan na karaniwang may handaan ang lahat ng bahay; datapwa't ang totoo, hindi ko nilálahat, ang marami sa mğa nagpipista ay nangungutang lamang ng ginugugol. Sa kalendario natin ay marami pa ang pistá ng Santó kaysa bilang ng araw ng boong sangtaón.

¿Ano ang mangyayari sa atin sa ganyang ugali? Inuuna natin ang pistá ng bayan bago tayo magbayad ng buwis sa lupa, at kung tanungin namán kung bakit waláng salapi, ang isásagót natin ay: “Mababa po ang halagá ng niyóg!” Datapwa't sa pagpipista natin ay may-litson, may masasaráp na pagkain, nagbibihis tayo ng magagarâ upáng magmakisig lamang sa mğa kaibigan at kakilala; pagkatapos na mawâlan ng salapi sa pagpipista ay sisisihin pa ang Pámahalaan dahil mababa raw ang halagá ng niyóg. Karaniwan din namán na sa mğa kasalan ay nagkakaroon ng malalaking handaan. At sabihin pa бага, kapag may handaan ay malaki ang nagugugol ng may-handa. Ang ginugugol sa damit ng ikinakasal ay salapi rin! Bakit ba kailangan pa nating maghanda sa pagkakasal ng anak samantalanag hindi na kailangan ipagmakaingay pa ang pag-aasawâ? Ang ibig kong sabihin, kung may ipakakasal tayong anak, ay hindi na kailangang saksihin pa natin ang boong bayan na pag-uukulan namán ng malaking gugol, sapagka't pakakanin mong waláng sala.

Ang marami sa atin ay nangungutang upáng magkaroon lamang ng malaking pista kung iakakasal ang anak. Bakit na akó, nang akó'y mag-asawâ ay napatungo kami sa Hongkong nang walâ nang saksi. itó'y salitáng lalaki ay siyang sinasabi ko sa inyó ngayón upáng hindi na paggugulan ng salapi ang mag bagay na waláng kapakinabangan.

Ang isipin natin ay ang mangyayari sa ating kabuhayan kung sakaling maalís sa atin ang kapakibangan ng ating bayan sa pamilihan ng Estados Unidos, at dahil dito'y iwan na natin ang malabis na kadadalangin sa Dios, sapagka't hindi niyá tayo maaatupag, siya'y totoong maraming gawâin sa langit. Tayo ang kailangang tumulong sa atin din. Ang Pámahalaan ay waláng maibibígy sa atin nanggagaling. Kahit anó ang isipin ng Pámahalaan ay kailangang tayo'y gumawâ muna, bawâsan ang pagtatapon ng salapi sa mğa bagay na waláng kasaysayan. Kapag hindi natin ginawâ ay maaalipin tayong muli, sakaling tayo'y magkaroon ng kasarinlan.

Ang tigás at tibay ng Hapón ay hindi nagmumula sa kanyang hukbo, kundi sa kanyang kabuhayang-bansá, káya't ang Hapon ay hindi mamamatay kailan man. Hindi siya malulupig ng kapwa bansa pagka't ang mğa hapones ay gumagawâ kahit bumabagyo at lumilindol na hindi pa natatagalan. Kung dito nangyari ang gayong sakuna, ang lahat ng tao ay mag-aakalang ang mundo'y matatapos na. Datapwa't patuloy pa rin ang pag-aatupag sa kanilang mğa gawâin; ang paggawâ ay hindi nilá itinitigil, anó man ang mangyari. Nariyan ang tibay ng Hapon. Maibigin sa paggawâ, at iyan ang una nating alalahanin, manila kayó sa akin, mğa minamahal kong kalalawigan, sapagka't ang kabuhayan ng ating lahi, ay hindi natin maililigtas kapag tayong mğa pilipino ay hindi gagawâ. Umasa tayo sa ating bidig, sa ating pagsisikap. Sakâ tayo humingi ng tulong sa Dios at sa Pámahalaan.

Hindi ko malulunasan ang halagá ng kopras. Hindi maaalis ang “excise tax.” Dinaramdam ko ang hindi ikaari ng dalawâng bagay na iyan. Hindi ko rin magagawâ ang magbulaan sa inyo. Nguni't ang aking masasabi lamang ay itó: noong araw na unang isipin ng Kongreso ang paglalagay ng “excise tax,” hinilíng ko't nilábanan ang “tax” na iyán. Nang hindi magtagumpay ang aking pakikilaban ay hinilíng ko namán pagkatapos na masauli man lamang sa Pilipinas ang “excise tax,” ngunit nagkaroon ng mğa tadhana at tagubilin sa paggamit ng salaping nabanggit. Gayon pa man, kahit may pagbabawâl, ay inaasahan ko rin na kanilang ipagkaloob ang aking mag kahilingan, at magtatayo ng iba't-ibang industriya ng niyóg na pakikinabangan ng bayan.

Magliwanagan tayo. Ang inyong mğa diputadong ihahalal ay hindi makatutulong sa “excise tax.” Huwag ninyóng kagalalan si Lavidés. Ginawâ niyá ang kanyang magagawâ, at waláng ibáng makagagawâ nang hihigit pa sa nagawâ ni Lavidés. Ang magaganang hihigip pa sa nagawâ ni Lavidés. Ang magagawâ ko at ng Pámahalaan ay itó: mamadaliin ko ang pagpapadala rito ng salaping gagamitin sa pagpapa-ayos ng mğa daan upáng pakinabangan ng mğa manggagawâng waláng hanap-buhay. Baka hindi ninyó nalalaman ay akó ang nagpataas sa sahod ng mğa manggagawâ, at sa sandaling gugulin na ritoang dalawâng angaw na inilalaan sa Tayabas, ang mğa manggagawâ ay sasahod ng piso isáng araw. Sa ganyang paraan na lamang akó makatutulong sa inyo. Ang lahat ng nayon ay magkakaroon ng paaralan sa taong darating, at sa pagpapasukang muli, ay walâ nang anak ng mahirap na hindi

makapag-aaral. Magkakaroon na rin ng lahat ng mag gurong kailangan. Sa lahat ng inyong mag nasyon ay ipaaayos ko ang mga daan.

Sinabi sa akin ni Komisionado Guinto na ibig ninyong malamn ang tungkol sa bigas. Dapat kong ipaalam sa inyó na kung káya nagtayo ng NARIC ay upáng huwag maging napakababa ang halagá ng palay, at huwag namang tumaas na lubha ang halagá ng bigas. Ang kahirapan sa atin ay ipinagkakaloob nating mga pilipino sa ibáng tao ang kalakal sa bigas, at sa ganyan, ang mga mangangalakal ng bigas ay siyang nakikinabang. Katulad ng lagari, isulong at iurong ay kumakain, att tayong mga pilipino ang kinakain.

Hindi maaari na sa biglaang panahón ay malunasan ng NARIC ang katayuan natin, sapagkat hanggang hindi nalalagay sa kamay ng mga pilipino ang pagbibili ng bigas, anó man ang gawín ng NARIC ay may magtataas din ng halagá. Nalalaman ko na sa loob ng dalawáng araw ay bababaan ng NARIC ng kaunti ang halagá ng bigas; nguni't hindi maibababa ang halagá nang hindi may kadahilanan at katwiran. ang bagay na iyán ay walá sa kaniláng kamáy.

Ang mga tauhan ng NARIC ay inilagay ng Pangulo , at sa boong káya nilá ay kanilang ginagawâ ang lahat ng nauukol sa kabutihan ng mga mamamayan. Sa araw na makita kong ang kanilang ginagawâ ay hindi tama, aalisin ko silá. Hindi mangyayari ngayón ang nangyayari noong araw na tumaas ang halagá ng bigas nang napakalaki, na hindi na halos makayang bilhin ng mahihirap, sapagka't sa sandaling lumabis ang pagsasamantala ng mga magbibigás ay magpapakuha akó ng bigas sa Saigón.

Ito'y inyong pakaasahan na kung nasa kamáy ko rin lamang at aking magagawá, ay hindi ko pababayaan ang aking mga kalalawigan sa Tayabas. Minamahal ninyó akó at kayó'y minamahál ko rin. Gagawín ko ang aking magagawâ sa aking makakaya at kayó na ang bahalà.

Source: University of the Philippines Main Library

Quezon, M. L. (1938). *Talumpating binigkas ng kanyang kamahalan Manuel L. Quezon Pangulo ng Pilipinas : sa kapitolio ng tayabas noong Martes ng umaga, ika-20 ng Septiembe, 1938, na nagpapaliwanag ukol sa "EXCISE TAX"*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Speech of President Quezon on Secretaries Elpidio Quirino and José Yulo, September 27, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SECRETARIES ELPIDIO QUIRINO AND JOSÉ YULO

[Delivered at a luncheon given in their honor, at Malacañan Palace,
Manila, September 27, 1938]

Gentlemen:

In view of the fact that within a few minutes I shall have to leave, my remarks will be brief. And in view of the fact also that if I allow Secretary Quirino to speak, there will be no end to his speech, I am not going to allow either of our guests of honor to say a word.

Gentlemen, I have asked you to join me in honoring Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo, who will soon cease to be members of my Cabinet. This is a very sad occasion for me and I cannot and do not feel, as people in monarchies feel when, upon the death of a monarch, they proceed at once to say, "Long live the King!" There will be no kings who could fill the places that will be left vacant by Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo such that the Government will not feel their loss. Both have rendered services which everyone of us could well envy. Both are leaving behind them records in the Executive Department of the Government that none of their predecessors has excelled. Although I realize how much the Executive Department will lose with the resignation of these distinguished members of my Cabinet, I have nevertheless agreed to let them go because their services in the National Assembly, if elected, will be at least equally as important as the services they have rendered in the Executive Department of the Government. Not that an individual member of the National Assembly has a responsibility equal to that of a Department Secretary, but because under the present circumstances, for many considerations, the resignations of Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo from their respective portfolios to seek seats in the National Assembly, offer a lesson of great significance to the country.

We Filipinos have been schooled in democracy for only a few years, and we still have certain notions that need revision. We have the idea that once a man has reached the position of Department Secretary, he acquires a sort of title to that position, and that he cannot leave the position without disgrace or at least an admission that he has failed. It is well that I should let go these two members of my official family, who are known to have won my absolute confidence, so that our people may learn that it is perfectly natural for one man to be a Department Secretary today and a private citizen tomorrow. Again, the fact that a Department Secretary gives up his position to seek a seat in the National Assembly will certainly have the effect of raising in the estimation of our people the standard of the National Assembly.

I am afraid the country is beginning to think or feel that the National Assembly is a place where men who are worthless can go and find employment. Our people are beginning to lose sight of the fact that in this democratic government of ours, as contemplated and created by our own Constitution, the powers of government are divided into three equal coordinate branches—the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary—and that the National Assembly, under the Constitution, plays as important a role in the shaping of the policies of the Government, in the steering of the ship of state, as that of the Executive Department. I hope that these Department Secretaries, if elected, as I think they will be, will set a patriotic example to other Filipinos who, up to the present time, would not think it

their duty to leave their business or a high or better-paid position in order to offer their services to our country through the legislative branch of our Government.

There is another consideration which moves me to let Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo go. I want to show the country that this Government can enforce the electoral laws impartially, even when the candidates to an elective position are men who enjoy the love, the affection, and the respect of the Chief Executive. I want to say right here that if Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo are elected to the National Assembly, they will be elected only through the free choice of their constituents, that the machinery of this Government will not be placed at their disposal to secure their victory. They will have to take their chance just like what any other citizen of our country, seeking a seat in the National Assembly, must take; and I know that both Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo are proud of the fact that they can give me this opportunity to show the Filipino people that our interest in a clean election, in the enforcement of the electoral laws, is such that we can forget that we have in the field of politics, battling for their lives, two of our most distinguished and beloved companions in the Government.

Lastly, I want Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo to have the chance of going to the National Assembly to show the country, and the members of the National Assembly themselves, that a member of the National Assembly is not a representative of his province but of the whole country. With the responsibilities that these men have had in the National Government, responsibilities which are of the whole country, it is impossible for them now, if they should go to the National Assembly, to feel that one is only representing Ilocos Sur and the other Occidental Negros. I hope that with the election of Assemblyman Quirino, the Ilocano “nation” will disappear. [Applause] Gentlemen, what is going on in Europe is a good lesson for us. Let no one believe that I would allow any province in the Philippines, or any group of provinces, the right of self-determination to be either independent or to belong to some other country. [Applause] I am not passing judgment upon the issues now before the great powers of Europe and which threaten the world with war but I am stating for us that the issue of separation of provinces has been settled in the American Civil War; and that issue has been settled for us too. There will be no nationalities here. [Applause] We are one nation, and we will live and die as one nation. In order that we may live and die as one nation, we must put an end in the National Assembly to that feeling of responsibility to one district. Not long ago, a good friend of mine, speaking of possibilities of appointment, called my attention to the fact that certain regions in the Philippines should be represented in the National Government. Let me say right here now that when I am choosing officials of this Government, I do not inquire from what province they come, and any province that should come to me and recommend an appointment on the ground that that province should be given recognition, will lose all chances of my giving that appointment to a man from that province as long as I am President of the Philippines. It is important that we should feel and think like Filipinos—nothing more, nothing less. There are no separatists here. If there are, let us throw them overboard. They are better dead than alive. I hope, therefore, that these Department Secretaries, if they go to the National Assembly, will oppose every movement in that body that is not inspired by lofty motives, by motives of national spirit.

That is all I have to say. I am broken-hearted but I am consoled by the thought that these associates of mine are going to a new field of public service where the country needs them, and that even though hereafter we shall be concerned with different work, that bond of friendship and of love which has united us will remain firm forever. I wish Secretary Quirino and Secretary Yulo success. I know that in whatever field they may choose to go they will succeed. God bless them!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the inauguration of the Government Tenement Houses, October 17, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration of the Government Tenement Houses**

[Delivered at Barrio Vitas, Tondo, Manila, October 17, 1938]

IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF LABORERS

Even if capital has a right to look for profit, it also has a corresponding duty to give labor its due.

Exaggeration can never be an instrument of peace and harmony, but in many cases it brings about disorder. What is necessary is the cooperation of labor and capital so as to continuously bring about and enjoy the comforts which life offers.

Let the spirit of cooperation and of harmony prevail, as well as a desire to be of service for the benefit of all, for the sake of the peace and welfare of the country.

My Countrymen:

I am happy to see you all rejoicing on the occasion of the inauguration of these tenement houses which were constructed at the instance of the Government so that the laborers may have a decent place to live in.

I do not agree with Secretary Torres when he said that these houses were constructed through my efforts. The credit goes to the National Assembly which appropriated the necessary funds for the construction of these houses, which money was, in turn, taken from the taxes that we pay. What the National Assembly did was to answer the call for a long-felt necessity of our poor people who really need the help of the Government so as to improve their living conditions.

The conditions under which our laboring class and the poor live, present a problem which we should not fail to heed. Our officials should study and remedy the situation, and, as for me, I consider it an honorable duty to remedy it in the shortest time possible. Almost every day I see the deplorable condition of the places where our laborers live. Oftentimes, as early as five o'clock in the morning, I walk and go to places in the city where laborers live, to enable myself to see actually there and how their houses are constructed. These visits which generally take me to Pandacan, Tondo, and other places, really touch me. I really feel in my heart the pitiful conditions under which the laborers and their families live—so entirely devoid of the comforts of life, their houses located in muddy places or built above stagnant pools which perhaps never dry up except during the hot season. This accounts for the fact that sickness and disease cannot be reduced to a minimum, but on the contrary become more dreadful and take a toll of many lives. This is the reason I am confident that this step in the improvement of the laborer's living conditions which we now witness this afternoon will be followed by many others during the remaining three years of my term as President of the Philippines.

It will not be long now when the shore which we now see will be filled and become dry land where laborers' houses can be built. This will be realized in a short time, the filing to begin from the lighthouse and end at Vitas. Likewise, the Government will construct a townsite adjacent to the city, sufficient to accommodate twenty-one thousand families, enabling them to build houses on 200-square meter lots, thereby allowing extra space for poultry and

vegetable planting. This new townsite, which will be constructed within a short time, will have a hospital, a beautiful and clean market, wide roads, the narrowest being 15 meters, a nursery where nurses will take care of babies while their mothers work in factories and industrial houses, playgrounds where children can play without risk of being run over by motor vehicles, a big park of three hundred hectares where the residents could hold celebrations they may want and where they can relax during the hot season. Laborers, who now live in crowded places located in low and muddy regions in the city, will have the comforts which they do not enjoy at present.

Our Government is planning this because it fully believes that human beings, unlike animals, deserve a decent place to live in however poor they may be. Aside from this, the Government wants to impress upon the heart and mind of every citizen the fact that he has no better friend than the Government. As a matter of fact, the Government belongs to the people, and the people choose the officials who are to follow their mandate. There is no official in the Government who does not believe that in performing his duties it is the interest of the country that he serves above his own. That is why the claim of the opposition that the Government is the enemy of the people is entirely false. If the Government is really the enemy of the people, then I shall be the first to say that we do not need any kind of government. This is what makes the whole thing ridiculous: If the Government is the enemy of the people as claimed by the opposition, then why is it that these very people aspire for governmental positions either elective or otherwise? Do they want to be branded as enemies of the people? From this we can readily see the falsity of their claim. You can ask them if, in desiring positions in the Government, they want to be branded as enemies of the people.

This is what happens: There are people who still think there is real patriotism in telling their fellowmen of their bravery, of the things that they could do. All that is mere talk and results in nothing. There are some who say that they are against the present government, and these persons were my companions in the Philippine Assembly and later in the Senate, where I observed that most of what they said they would do were not at all realized. This is the time for deeds and not words, and real patriotism, if we are to perform our duties to the country, lies in our collective efforts to bring about the welfare of the country. In deeds alone can real patriotism be shown.

There are many things that we should do to prepare ourselves better for independence. Our natural resources which are not hidden from our eyes, such as our forests that contain abundant timber and our flowing streams that can be harnessed to our use, and the varied wealth hidden in our soils, are among the many gifts given by the Creator to our people that we should take advantage of by collective effort. But if the time that should be taken advantage of in devising means for the proper utilization of our hidden wealth which will bring life and comfort to us, is wasted in poisoning the public mind, we will reap disaster because the very wealth in our midst will be grabbed by others:

My friends from the opposition should stop their useless talk, and you, my friends, should not be easily swayed by apparently courageous remarks, because the truth is that if you challenge these self-styled patriots you will easily find out that what they say is false. That is why my most cherished desire these days, now that the election is drawing near, is for you to choose men who have accomplished something, who are still trying to accomplish something, and not those whose promises are never realized. And of you and your friends residing on Velasquez Street, I ask that you elect Perfecto. (From a listener: "You may rest assured, Mr. President".)

You know now that the aim of the Government in striving to promote the welfare and comfort of laborers, a sample of which you see now, shall be maintained. It will be pushed on with the usual vigor because it leads to the realization of the ardent desire of the Government and my sincere aspiration, as long as I am the Chief Executive of our Government, to render help to the fullest extent to the poor and laboring classes. In this connection, I want to take this opportunity to make it known to capital that even if it has a right to look for profit, it also has a corresponding duty to give labor its due. I say this because I believe in the truth of what economic experts say that capital must be the first to respect labor. It is true that in attaining the comforts which other nations under the sun now enjoy, labor was needed and utilized. That is why if capital sinks periodically and disappears, the sincere cooperation of labor makes capital spring out again to be used once more as a tool of progress for the benefit of mankind. And because capital is a product of labor, capital should never maltreat labor.

But you laborers should never think that because you are as indispensable as this, you can ask for whatever you want. No! Exaggeration can never be an instrument of peace and harmony, but in many cases it brings about

disorder. What is necessary is the cooperation of labor and capital so as to continuously bring about and enjoy the comforts which life offers.

In conclusion, I wish to instill in your hearts and minds this afternoon, that these tenement houses were constructed by the Government for the benefit of the laborers and the poor. Let the spirit of cooperation and of harmony prevail, as well as a desire to be of service for the benefit of all, for the sake of the peace and welfare of the country.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on Government Policy, progress of Occidental Negros, and the Sugar Industry,
October 19, 1938 SPEECH**

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**GOVERNMENT POLICY, PROGRESS OF OCCIDENTAL NEGROS,
AND THE SUGAR INDUSTRY**

[Delivered at the inauguration of the City of Bacolod. Occidental
Negros, on October 19, 1938]

Mr. Governor, Mr. Mayor, People of Bacolod and the Province of Negros:

It is a great pleasure for me to see how the people of Bacolod and the Province of Negros, in general, are celebrating the establishment of the new form of government of this city. While in part, perhaps, I should consider this public demonstration as a homage to the President of the Philippines, yet I would consider it wholly as an honor which you have given me. I see in this public demonstration the satisfaction of the people of Bacolod over the change that has been introduced in their form of government. This is indeed very significant for, as you well know, the change consists mainly in the conversion of the office of the head of this government from being elective to appointive. It shows beyond doubts that the people of Bacolod understand what democracy really means and the true objective of the Government when you find in these cheers a well-grounded motive for rejoice. There are those who believe that because the mayor of this city is now appointive, when heretofore the position was elective, this is a step backward. On the contrary, it is a step forward in the administration of the affairs of this city.

Municipal governments are not intended to be political organizations; municipal governments are constituted mainly for the administration of the affairs of a town or city in the interest of the inhabitants thereof. Nothing but honesty and efficiency are important in running the affairs of the municipal government. Policies of great importance need not be considered or discussed unless they are designed to serve as best as possible the interest of the town or city. In a city government where the mayor is appointed by the National Government, the man holding the position feels free to serve the interest of the people regardless of any political consideration. So he is in a better position to administer the affairs of his office than the one who, by virtue of his election, is sometimes influenced either by political debts which, of course, it is his duty to repay or by a political ambition which he may be entertaining secretly.

I have announced my desire to give the people of the Philippines more government and less politics under my administration. By this I mean that I consider the business of the Government entirely independent and different from the business of politics. A government has only one objective, and that is to serve the best interest of the people. On the other hand, politics is more interested in the welfare of its political organization than in the good of the people. However, political parties have but one justification for their existence—that they should choose the best within the party as candidates for positions in the Government in order that they may give the people what the people expect from their Government. When the parties or the men whom they have helped to be elected to office attempt to control the Government, the parties become the enemies of the people themselves, and, in this case, the people should attempt to defeat those parties.

We have before us a national election of the members of the National Assembly. As the titular head of the Nacionalista Party, it is my desire that the people elect the candidates of my party. But I cherish one desire greater than the desire to have the candidates of my party elected; that desire is to see that the people are permitted to choose the men whom they wish to elect and that frauds are not tolerated in favor of the candidates. I don't want a

single member of the Nacionalista Party to be elected either through fraud or undue influence of the Government. [Applause] If the people have faith in my leadership, they will elect our men. If they have no faith in our party or in my leadership, it is their privilege to elect other men: and it is the duty of all election officers to permit the people to elect those whom they choose. I desire to announce, as I have done in a proclamation I issued yesterday, that my greatest concern is to make the coming election the cleanest election ever held in the Philippines; and for any man who violates the election law, even for the purpose of electing the most beloved candidate of mine, I shall see to it that he goes to jail. [Applause] I am glad that the people of Bacolod, through this public demonstration, have shown that they are more interested in having here a good government than a political government.

The credit for the creation of this new city is doubtless due, primarily, to the efforts of the representative of this district and, secondly, to the support given by his associates. But I want to say to the people of Bacolod and to the Province of Occidental Negros that the influence of the Speaker of the Assembly had been asserted in the enactment of this law; that he, as the head of the National Assembly, is entitled to public recognition which I desire to bestow upon him on this occasion. Speaker Montilla has decided not to seek a re-election. I want to say publicly to the people of this province that Speaker Montilla has honored you and the country for he has performed his duties as Speaker of the Assembly with dignity and integrity. I have found no more loyal supporter of my administration than in Speaker Montilla; I want to say, in the presence of all of you, that I am grateful to him and I shall always remember with pleasure and gratitude our association during the time that he was the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Occidental Negros is a very fortunate province not only because Almighty God, in His mercy, has given you a rich land but also because He has given you men of character, ability, and patriotism; men who have honored their citizenship; men who have been great leaders and faithful servants of our people. You had the great fortune to be represented by distinguished men in the former House of Representatives. No province can present a most selected list of ex-members of the Senate and the National Assembly than Occidental Negros. Those who served in the past as well as those who are serving you now are the equals of the best members of our legislature, and you should consider yourselves very fortunate in having these men. They served not only the interest of their respective districts but also that of the nation. Pedro Hernaez, although only a new member of the Assembly, has made a wonderful record for himself. [Applause] Magalona is an old member. He is, and has always been, the friend of the workingmen. [Applause] To this list of distinguished representatives, I hope that the name of one whom I, as his friend and former chief, am very proud of will be added. He is Jose Yulo.

As Secretary of Justice, Yulo was my most trusted adviser not only in the affairs of his own Department but also in all matters of national import. [Applause] There is no man in this country in whom I have more confidence other than Secretary Yulo. [Applause] He is so modest that the people would never know how much he has done in and for the Government if those who have had the occasion to see his work were to remain silent. But I cannot refrain from saying that Secretary Yulo is, at least, the equal of any secretary of justice in any government in this world. [Applause] He reminds me of a story that I once heard about a great pope. He was a modest, old man; he was very short in stature. One of the cardinals said to him, "Holy Father, it is a pity that you are not tall." The Holy Father answered, "Men are not measured from head to foot; they are measured from here to here" pointing to the edges of his forehead). Now, if measured by the size of his brain, there is no man in the Philippines who is greater than Jose Yulo. [Applause] But that is not the best that can be said of him. Brains are necessary, but brains are not the most important in a man. They are character, integrity, honesty, and loyalty. If a man has brains but he is dishonest, he is worse than a dishonest man who has no brains. It is the honesty and the integrity of Jose Yulo which have won for him not only my admiration but also the gratitude of the Government and the respect of our people.

I was impressed by one of the floats that passed before me this evening; the float that represented the days of colonization in Occidental Negros—the time when this province was a forest, and some courageous, enterprising Ilongos came here and cut down the trees, cleared and cultivated the land. I saw with my own eyes the days when your ancestors, with confidence in God and courage in their hearts, fought every obstacle on their way to make of this land what it is today. I was particularly impressed when I saw on the float the man cutting down the trees; like anyone who saw that float I stopped for a moment to consider its meaning. What did you see there? The man who is cutting down the trees represents labor—the workingman. It is through the sweat of the workingman that Negros is now one of the richest provinces of the Philippines, one of the best places to visit. But not all those who live in Negros now can say that they are living in plenty. On the contrary, while there are some Filipinos and foreigners

here who make big amounts of money every year from the sugar industry, yet the men in the field are not getting their due share.

Among the sugar centrals in Negros, there is one which is practically owned by the Government of the Philippines. In the past that central enjoyed a participation of 45 per cent while the planters received 55 per cent. But when I became the President, I directed the bank to give the planters an additional 5 per cent for their share, so that now they get 60 per cent as against the 40 per cent for the central. *[Applause]* In the contract that bound the planters to the central, we saw no equity at all in the arrangement; and even though legally we could have continued to give the planters only 55 percent, yet, on our own initiative, we gave them a participation of 60 per cent. *[Applause]* But we did not stop there. This year I directed the Philippine National Bank to keep only 35 per cent for the centrals, so that another 5 per cent was given to the other party—the planters. However, this additional 5 per cent will not be paid to the planters but to the workingman in the field. *[Applause]*

In the business of the sugar centrals, there are three parties—the capital, represented by the central; the capital and the land, represented by the hacenderos or the planters; and the labor, represented by the workingmen. The centrals have been getting the most out of the sugar business. It is true that in the beginning those who invested in these centrals took some risk, for they put in capital without knowing how the business would come out in the end. But, during all these years, these centrals have been making money in enormous amounts; some sugar centrals have already recovered their investments; it is, therefore, time for them to give greater participation to the men who administer the land and to those in the field—the laborers. It is my hope that the board, which I have created to get the central, the hacienda owner, and the laborer to agree on an equitable distribution of the profits among themselves, will succeed in its all-important mission. But if these entities do not do it voluntarily, it is my intention to recommend to the next National Assembly the imposition of a tax for centrals which will be used by the Government to serve the interest of the workingmen. *[Applause]*

There is no use closing our eyes to the realities of the day! It is impossible to have our political and social institutions stabilized unless we dispense justice to everybody. Justice alone can maintain the stability of any country during these days; force cannot do it. In order that the people may give their loyal support to the Government, in order that the people themselves may constitute the best guarantee for peace and order, it is necessary that we render justice to the people. And the Government alone cannot do justice to the people; the Government needs the cooperation and help of all the elements of the community. Everybody must realize that the most selfish interests demand that you should do good to others in order that others may do good to you. The teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ, “Do unto others what you would like others do unto you,” has to be complied with by every society or community, if it desires to survive this tremendous dislocation of the present social order of the world. Guns and bullets cannot do it. Only the people of those countries who consider it their duty to do good to others will not go through the bloody trials that others have passed.

The people of Occidental Negros are the most privileged people of the Philippines today, mainly because you have the only basic industry that is still making money. My own province is in a terrible plight; for in Tayabas we have only copra to sell, and the price of copra has gone down so much that we do not even have enough money to buy a rope with which to hang ourselves. This is also the situation of the people who live in the hemp-producing regions—they are in the same plight. On the other hand, you can still make money, as you are actually making money, in the sugar industry. You are blessed, exceptionally blessed! Now you must use the wealth that you have to benefit the people. Make everybody in Negros happy and contented; let Negros be the paradise of the Philippines.

I want to congratulate the new mayor of the City of Bacolod for the appointment I have given him. When Assemblyman Hernaez brought Mayor Montelibano to my office, he had with him a recommendation from the provincial board. Then and there I told Mr. Montelibano that would appoint him mayor of this city only upon the joint recommendations of the governor, the provincial board, and the members of the National Assembly from Negros particulars the assemblyman from this district. But told this to Mayor Montelibano: I am appointing you mayor of Bacolod because I have the information that you have the ability and integrity to head that new and great city.

I am not appointing you to serve the interest of the Nacionalista party in Bacolod; I am not appointing you to serve the interest of Assemblyman Hernaez; but I am appointing you to serve the interest of the people of Bacolod above the interest of any political party. And I know that you will do it; that is why I am giving you this appointment.

It is my hope and expectation that I shall always look back with gratification to the day when Assemblyman Hernaez brought Mayor Montelibano to my office. I also hope that when, in the future and as a private citizen already, I should pay Bacolod another visit, I would still see Mayor Montelibano the head of this city—a southern metropolis counting with at least one hundred thousand happy and contented inhabitants, a city having beautiful parks, hospitals, and schools within its boundaries. [*Long applause*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Coconut Industry and Elections, October 29, 1938

Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines On Coconut Industry and Elections

[Delivered at the inauguration of the municipal building of Candelaria, Tayabas, October 29, 1938]

Mr. Governor, Provincemates, and Fellow Citizens:

I am here today, in order to be present at the inauguration of your municipal building. I remember that when I was governor of Tayabas, Candelaria was merely a barrio of Sariaya, and nobody took interest in its welfare except myself who was then governor. I have, therefore, every reason to be happy, for I see with my own eyes that the former barrio of Candelaria has now its own municipal building; and it seems that it has even surpassed in some respects the Municipality of Sariaya.

On this occasion, I want to talk on two vital matters: first, the coconut industry; second, the election. With regard to the coconut industry, I want to tell you that you should realize that our Government, or any government for that matter, has no strength or power to increase the price of a commodity that is sold in another nation because the buyers govern the price of the articles sold in their nation, especially if these articles meet stiff competition from other nations. It is not only we, the Filipinos, who sell coconut or copra; Java, the Straits Settlements at Singapore, and other countries also have coconut or copra to sell. These competitors determine the fluctuations in the price of copra; if there are many sellers the price goes down, but the price goes up in case there are only a few sellers.

It is not true that the fall in the price of our copra has been due to the excise tax. We have been paying this tax for two years now, but last year—in the second year of the excise tax—the price of our copra went up as it did during the World War. So it cannot be said that the excise tax is responsible for the cheap price of copra. The people should not think and hope that their Government has the strength or power to increase or decrease the price of their articles because if this is how we should think and hope, then our life would be miserable indeed. By thinking thus, we would just be doing nothing about the conditions which prevail not only here but also throughout the world.

The government of any country is not empowered to fix the price of its commodities. Why was America panic-stricken when all her banks closed their doors? This action of the banks brought a drastic fall in the prices of the commodities in the United States and 15 million people found themselves jobless; but this panic was not even felt in America because the people there are far richer than those of other countries in the world. If the United States Government, rich as it is, cannot do anything when such things happen to her, what can our Government do? Truly, what happened in America has not had its counterpart in the Philippines yet. In this country of ours, did we ever have such a vast number of unemployed as America had at the time the banks were forced to close in 1933 and 1934, when the jobless people even exceeded the entire population of the Philippines? Through God's mercy and help, such happenings have never come to us. And, should our Government ever help, it would be through other means.

Among the projects that our Government has in mind at present, is the opening of a bank which will lend money to farmers and business firms at a low rate of interest. So that this project will prove a boon to landowners, it is necessary that cooperative associations, to be known as "Sociedad Cooperativa," be organized for the purpose of transacting all negotiations for loans with the bank. It is imperative that Tayabas should have such organizations, so that landowners who raise coconuts can sell their products directly, which procedure will undoubtedly eliminate those unnecessary deals made through indirect channels, such as the Chinese or other coconut merchants.

Even if the Government may not be able to raise the price of coconut, so long as the landowners can sell directly their products in the markets, we can still hope for a rise in the price. Copra, which is sold at P5 in Manila, is priced and bought here at P3.50 or P4 because of the expenses entailed when it exchanges hands during the transit. Let us,

then, organize cooperative associations for the purpose of buying coconuts not only in Tayabas but also in the different provinces. This is what I have in mind, and, in the coming session of the National Assembly, I will recommend the establishment of an industrial or agricultural bank.

And now, a word about the coming election. You know that the two candidates of the Nacionalista Party in Tayabas are Dr. Castillo, for the first district, and Attorney Lavides, for the second district. I wish these two Nacionalista candidates to win, but greater than that desire, is my wish to have a clean election throughout the country. I want no frauds committed in the election; I also wish that those government officials who are forbidden by law to take active part in the election, should desist from meddling with anything that has to do with the election. I have already stated that, no matter how much I wish the Nacionalista candidates to win, I want them to triumph without the interference of any government official. I want the country to get used to clean elections, and the candidates to learn to abide by the desire of the people, be it for or against them.

One of the things a candidate to an elective position craves to see, is to find out whether he can endear himself to his country or not. Nothing can bring more joy to one's heart than to find that he stands high in the esteem of his countrymen as proved by the election returns. That is why I am hoping for a clean and happy election—one that will be a credit and a joy to our country.

Though I wish the majority candidates to win, yet I am reiterating my greater wish to see a clean election with all the laws followed, especially in Tayabas, so that other provinces would not have grounds to remark that we did not have a pleasant election.

I repeat, although I would be sorry to learn that the candidates of my party were defeated, yet I would feel the sorrow more were I to hear that these candidates won through dishonorable and fraudulent means. [*Applause*] Let the province choose its own representatives; but the victory of a candidate should not be won through illegal ways.

I will not stay long with you; I regret that I cannot enjoy your company on this day of the inauguration of your municipal building. And if I do not visit your town again, or any other town of our province for some time, I hope you will not take it to heart. Suffice it is for all of you to remember that while I may not be here frequently, you are, however, always in my heart and mind.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the Inauguration of the Municipal Building of Candelaria, Tayabas, October 29, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the Inauguration of the Municipal Building of Candelaria, Tayabas**

[Released on October 29, 1938]

COCONUT INDUSTRY AND ELECTIONS

The government of any country is not empowered to fix the price of its commodities.

I want the country to get used to clean elections, and the candidates to learn to abide by the desire of the people, be it for or against them.

Mr. Governor, Provincemates, and Fellow Citizens:

I am here today, in order to be present at the inauguration of your municipal building. I remember that when I was governor of Tayabas, Candelaria was merely a barrio of Sariaya, and nobody took interest in its welfare except myself who was then governor. I have, therefore, every reason to be happy, for I see with my own eyes that the former barrio of Candelaria has now its own municipal building; and it seems that it has even surpassed in some respects the Municipality of Sariaya.

On this occasion, I want to talk on two vital matters: first, the coconut industry; second, the election. With regard to the coconut industry, I want to tell you that you should realize that our Government, or any government for that matter, has no strength or power to increase the price of a commodity that is sold in another nation because the buyers govern the price of the articles sold in their nation, especially if these articles meet stiff competition from other nations. It is not only we, the Filipinos, who sell coconut or copra; Java, the Straits Settlements at Singapore, and other countries also have coconut or copra to sell. These competitors determine the fluctuations in the price of copra; if there are many sellers the price goes down, but the price goes up in case there are only a few sellers.

It is not true that the fall in the price of our copra has been due to the excise tax. We have been paying this tax for two years now, but last year—in the second year of the excise tax—the price of our copra went up as it did during the World War. So it cannot be said that the excise tax is responsible for the cheap price of copra. The people should not think and hope that their Government has the strength or power to increase or decrease the price of their articles because if this is how we should think and hope, then our life would be miserable indeed. By thinking thus, we would just be doing nothing about the conditions which prevail not only here but also throughout the world.

The government of any country is not empowered to fix the price of its commodities. Why was America panic-stricken when all her banks closed their doors? This action of the banks brought a drastic fall in the prices of the commodities in the United States and 15 million people found themselves jobless; but this panic was not even felt in America because the people there are far richer than those of other countries in the world. If the United States Government, rich as it is, cannot do anything when such things happen to her, what can our Government do? Truly, what happened in America has not had its counterpart in the Philippines yet. In this country of ours, did we ever have such a vast number of unemployed as America had at the time the banks were forced to close in 1933 and 1934, when the jobless people even exceeded the entire population of the Philippines? Through God's mercy and

help, such happenings have never come to us. And, should our Government ever help, it would be through other means.

Among the projects that our Government has in mind at present is the opening of a bank which will lend money to farmers and business firms at a low rate of interest. So that this project will prove a boon to landowners, it is necessary that cooperative associations, to be known as “Sociedad Cooperativa,” be organized for the purpose of transacting all negotiations for loans with the bank. It is imperative that Tayabas should have such organizations, so that landowners who raise coconuts can sell their products directly, which procedure will undoubtedly eliminate those unnecessary deals made through indirect channels, such as the Chinese or other coconut merchants.

Even if the Government may not be able to raise the price of coconut, so long as the landowners can sell directly their products in the markets, we can still hope for a rise in the price. Copra, which is sold at P5 in Manila, is priced and bought here at P3.50 or P4 because of the expenses entailed when it exchanges hands during the transit. Let us, then, organize cooperative associations for the purpose of buying coconuts not only in Tayabas but also in the different provinces. This is what I have in mind, and, in the coming session of the National Assembly, I will recommend the establishment of an industrial or agricultural bank.

And now, a word about the coming election. You know that the two candidates of the Nacionalista Party in Tayabas are Dr. Castillo, for the first district, and Attorney Lavides, for the second district. I wish these two Nacionalista candidates to win, but greater than that desire, is my wish to have a clean election throughout the country. I want no frauds committed in the election; I also wish that those government officials who are forbidden by law to take active part in the election, should desist from meddling with anything that has to do with the election. I have already stated that, no matter how much I wish the Nacionalista candidates to win, I want them to triumph without the interference of any government official. I want the country to get used to clean elections, and the candidates to learn to abide by the desire of the people, be it for or against them.

One of the things a candidate to an elective position craves to see, is to find out whether he can endear himself to his country or not. Nothing can bring more joy to one's heart than to find that he stands high in the esteem of his countrymen as proved by the election returns. That is why I am hoping for a clean and happy election—one that will be a credit and a joy to our country.

Though I wish the majority candidates to win, yet I am reiterating my greater wish to see a clean election with all the laws followed, especially in Tayabas, so that other provinces would not have grounds to remark that we did not have a pleasant election.

I repeat, although I would be sorry to learn that the candidates of my party were defeated, yet I would feel the sorrow more were I to hear that these candidates won through dishonorable and fraudulent means. /Applause/ Let the province choose its own representatives; but the victory of a candidate should not be won through illegal ways.

I will not stay long with you; I regret that I cannot enjoy your company on this day of the inauguration of your municipal building. And if I do not visit your town again, or any other town of our province for some time, I hope you will not take it to heart. Suffice it is for all of you to remember that while I may not be here frequently, you are, however, always in my heart and mind.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Radio Address of President Quezon on Boy Scout Training, October 31, 1938

**Radio Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Boy Scout Training**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, Manila, October 31, 1938]

The greatest need of our country today is a citizenry composed of strong, clean, earnest and socially efficient men.

Boy Scouts and Scouters of the Philippines:

I am happy to address you on this second anniversary of your Commonwealth Charter, and to extend to the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines my warmest felicitations for the progress they have attained during the last two years. More than 30,000 members are now on your rolls. That is indeed a splendid achievement, giving assurance that the world-wide movement devoted to the promotion of the ideals of peace, democracy, and sturdy manhood will grow and flourish in the Philippines.

As the twig bends so will the tree grow. This old adage so true in plant life is equally true among human beings. The moulding of character, the formation of ideals and ambitions, the building up of physical prowess—all these must take place during the years of early youth. It is during that stage when man is in a sort of plastic state, that his growth and development assume definite direction. Many of the decisive influences cannot be imparted either in the school or in the home. Wholesome contact with nature, the freedom of the outdoors, grappling with practical obstacles and problems—these and these alone can give a young man an opportunity to discover his moral, mental, and physical resources, and thus comprehend the necessity of their development in order to meet these problems better. It is a great objective of the Boy Scouts organization—this giving the youth training in the practical application of their capabilities.

A boy scout is taught to be self-reliant, that means that he must endeavor to possess both physical and moral courage. It means that he will not be afraid to meet beast or man on an equal footing, because he has developed adequately his skill and brawn. It likewise means that he shall have courage to do what is right, for the sake of right itself, irrespective of the consequences either to his life or fortune.

A boy scout is taught to be a lover of nature. He is trained to learn the value of trees and birds, to know the use of the rippling brook, and to gaze with intelligent eyes at all forms of life. A good scout knows how to wade a stream, to span a river, or scale a peak. A day in the woods reveals to him the great adventure of utilizing nature to serve men's purposes. He learns to work with his hands and to find joy in strenuous efforts to solve difficulties provided by his environment.

A boy scout learns to be kind and charitable. He learns to bandage the wounded limb of a fallen comrade and to protect a bird or a harmless insect in misery. He helps and aged man on his feet or takes a wandering child to safety. He is taught to do good deeds for the beauty of them and because they make him happy.

Above all, a boy scout is trained to develop the principle faculties which make up his character. He is courteous, truthful, reliable, honest, generous, and chivalrous. In one word, he is taught to be strong, useful and good man. He learns to grow like a molave on the hillside and not like a plant in the hot house.

Any organization with these great objectives deserves the support of everyone. I trust that the Boy Scouts of the Philippines will enjoy that support from all public-spirited citizens. No other movement can give greater or more precious dividends to our Commonwealth than this effort to build up the character and manhood of our citizenry.

Boy Scouts of the Philippines, you enjoy a priceless opportunity for valuable moral and physical improvement. I hope you will avail yourselves in full measure of that opportunity. Your lofty ideals are embodied in the Scout Oath and Law. I urge upon you to strengthen your faith in those ideals and to prepare yourselves as well as you can to take part in their accomplishment. The greatest need of our country today is a citizenry composed of strong, clean, earnest and socially efficient men. You are being trained to be such men. You will be the men who will provide our country with the kind of leadership that it needs and without which it cannot endure. There should be more of you. Ask your friends to join your organization. Show them by your exemplary conduct and the high qualities that you possess how desirable it is for others of your age to be as you are. The highest rank to which you can aspire is the Eagle Rank. Only those who work conscientiously, painstakingly and earnestly can attain that rank, which is a great badge of honor and achievement, and I hope you will do all your best to qualify for it.

I wish to extend to you, my fellow scouters and scouts, my wholehearted wishes for continued progress and success, and to you, ladies and gentlemen, who are friends of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, I wish to commend the Boy Scout movement and its lofty ideals.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the Public Plaza in Dumaguete, November 3, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the Public Plaza in Dumaguete**

[Delivered in Negros Oriental, November 3, 1938]

**GOVERNMENT POLICY, ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS, AND REFLECTION OF ASSEMBLYMEN
FOR ORIENTAL NEGROS**

The provincial governors are the representatives of the President of the Philippines in the provinces.

The Government is one thing and political parties another.

Once a man is chosen to occupy a public office, he is no longer the servant of a party, but the servant of the whole people.

Under my administration there will be more government and less politics. By that I mean that if a man who is a member of the Nacionalista Party is a crook, the fact that he is a member of that party will not save him from prosecution. On the other hand, if a man who is a member of the opposition party is right, his right will be protected as much as that of a member of the majority party.

This is a government duly constituted by the votes of our own people, a government that will impose its authority against everybody—and against the world if necessary.

My only ambition is to have in our country a stable government that is just and fair, a government that is honest, a government that will protect the rights of everybody, a government before whom the lowliest man will receive the same consideration as the most powerful.

Mr. Governor, People of Dumaguete and
of the Province of Oriental Negros:

This is my second visit to Dumaguete in three years. When I last came here the governor of this province was my dear friend, ex-Senator Hermenegildo Villanueva. He is now out of this province performing a duty which I have entrusted to him. In his place, you have a new governor, Governor Teves, and I desire to take advantage of this, my first visit during his incumbency, to extend him my whose-hearted support and cooperation for the success of his administration. /Applause/

The provincial governors are the representatives of the President of the Philippines in the provinces, and it is my desire to lend each provincial governor the help that my office can give in order that his administration may be successful. My support, however, of will be in proportion as he complies with his duties and serves the people well. I have stated more than once that under my administration there will be more government and less politics. By that I mean that under my administration political considerations have little weight. The Government is one thing and political parties another. Political parties are constituted for the purpose of organizing men who have the same political ideals and of helping party office seekers secure positions. Political parties are mere instruments of the people with which to choose their officials. But when, after an election, a man is elected through the efforts of one

political party, he becomes the chosen official of the people, no longer the chosen official of the party. If a political party tries to use the men who belong to it and who occupy official positions to foster its aims and promote its interests, that party is unworthy of the confidence of the people. Once a man is chosen to occupy a public office, he is no longer the servant of a party, but the servant of the whole people. Therefore, it is the duty of every provincial governor, as it is the duty of every municipal mayor, and, above all, the duty of the President of the Philippines, to regard themselves as servants of the people only, and not as servants of the party to which they belong. As such servants of the people, it is their duty to do justice, to comply with the law without favor to anyone—even to those who are closest to them for political or personal reasons. That is what I mean when I said that under my administration there will be more government and less politics. By that I mean that if a man who is a member of the Nacionalista Party is a crook, the fact that he is a member of that party will not save him from prosecution. On the other hand, if a man who is a member of the opposition party is right, his right will be protected as much as that of a member of the majority party.

I have come for two purposes—one is to officially inspect this province, the other to say a few words to you here. Two days ago I informed the governor that I was coming here and that I wanted to meet all the provincial as well as the local officials. I have just been in Cebu where I had done the same thing; I notified the governor that I was going there and wanted all the provincial and municipal mayors to meet me in Cebu. One of the mayors of Cebu, a friend and partisan of Secretary Cuenco, did not come and I suspended him from office. He had been told by the Governor that I was coming and that I wanted to meet the mayors, but he did not come. Perhaps he thought that because he belonged to the party of Secretary Cuenco I would forgive him. Secretary Cuenco is one of the members of my Cabinet. He is not only one of the members of the Cabinet but also one who has been loyal to me politically for many years. Besides that, Secretary Cuenco is a man who has my confidence and my support. But Secretary Cuenco has been unable to save his mayor; I suspended him. The same thing happened here this afternoon. Four mayors did not come; I have suspended them. My friend, Mr. Medina, has come to me and intervened on behalf of these mayors. He tells me that they were out and did not receive the call. On the other hand, the Governor tells me that he sent word to them. Well, I want to know who is the recognized chief of this province, Mr. Medina or the Provincial Governor. /"Teves!" shouted the public/ It is Strange that the municipal mayors should notify Mr. Medina where they are and not notify their governor where they can be found. If these mayors believe that there is somebody in this province who can protect them when they do not comply with the law, they are mistaken. The immediate chief of the mayors is their governor, and a mayor who does not comply with the order of the governor when the order is legal, will be removed from office by me. /Applause/ I suppose if an American governor-general had come here and sent for those mayors, they would, have come to meet him. Let every Filipino know that the President of the Philippines has at least as much authority as any American governor-general ever had, and that a Filipino President of the Philippines is entitled to the respect and obedience of the citizens of this country because his office came from the people themselves. Perhaps I should have thought that the absence of those mayors was due to some good cause. The mere fact that Mr. Medina knows why they are absent gives me reason to believe that their absence is due to political reason. And so I am going to remove ... no, suspend them. The worst that can happen to our people, once given the right to choose our own officials, is to be incapable of giving them due respect and consideration. If there is any man who believes that the Government we now have is a joke, he had better think it over again. This is a government duly constituted by the votes of our own people, a government that will impose its authority against everybody—and against the world if necessary. /Applause/ I would never have accepted the position of President of the Philippines if I were not able to enforce my authority.

Gentlemen and countrymen, my only ambition is to have in our country a stable government that is just and fair, a government that is honest, a government that will protect the rights of everybody, a government before whom the lowliest man will receive the same consideration as the most powerful. /Applause/ My only ambition is to be I able to face my countrymen—those who voted for me and those who did not—and say to them that I am doing my duty by everybody, and that I am here to use the great powers of my office but in the interest of my friends or my own, but in the interest of all the people including the humblest of them. /Applause/

The Province of Oriental Negros may well consider itself very fortunate. You always had as your representatives in the National Government men who served you with loyalty and received the support and cooperation of the authorities of the National Government. /Applause/

The history of Hermenegildo Villanueva both in the upper and lower houses of the Philippine Legislature is the history of a public servant devoted to the service of his people. /Applause/ You have today two members of the National Assembly who have no superior in any province of the Philippines, either for their ability or for their loyalty to their duty as your representatives to the National Government. It is not that Guillermo Villanueva is a member of my party; it is not that Jose Romero is a Nacionalista. Even if Guillermo Villanueva and Jose Romero were members of the opposition, still I would say of them what I say now: they have honored their province by their service in the National Legislature. /Applause/ As far as I am personally or officially concerned, it makes no difference to me whom you elect from this province. If the members of the Assembly from Oriental Negros were elected to fight me, they could give me very little fight. /Laughter/ They can do me neither harm nor favor. They can do harm or favor to your province. But you have two members of the Assembly now who have been doing a lot of good to your province and if reelected will do you more good than ever. /Applause/

At my conference in the provincial government building this afternoon, I said that while I would like to see these two members of the National Assembly reelected, there was one paramount question to me in the coming election, and that was that I wanted, above all, a clean election, an election where the will of the people is permitted to be expressed freely. I want an election where the law will be respected and complied with. The governor, the members of the provincial board, the mayors, and members of the municipal councils, are free to take part in the electoral campaign. They can support the candidates they want, whether they are official candidates of the Nacionalista Party or not. I want them to feel absolutely free to support the men that in their conscience they believe they should support. But the provincial treasurer, the district engineer, the Constabulary, the teachers, the policeman, and civil service officials in general, have no right to take part in the election. However, they have the right to vote for the candidate of their choice if they have the residence requirements, but they cannot do any electioneering.

Both Assemblymen Villanueva and Romero are candidates whose triumph I should like to see. But if the officials of the Government make any campaign, I will suspend and dismiss them from office. They can vote for Villanueva and Romero, and I hope they do vote for them, but they cannot make any campaign for them.

And now, just one more word. Very soon, on the fifteenth of this month, the first half of my administration will come to an end. Under my administration every activity of the government has improved. We have more schools, more roads, more boys and girls in schools than we ever had before. We have a plan whereby within the next three years there will be schools in every barrio and teachers for all the boys and girls of school age so that no boy or girl of school age will be deprived of the opportunity of primary education. We will give the people clean drinking water. I promised one of the mayors in the conference this afternoon that he would have good drinking water. We will increase the number of dispensaries, improve the hospitals, and in every respect give the people better service and better government. Gentlemen, all these measures have been possible because the National Assembly approved the laws that enforce them. I have no power under the Constitution to enact these laws; it was the National Assembly that enacted them. If the people of the Province of Oriental Negros are pleased with my administration, they should be pleased with the service rendered to them by Assemblymen Villanueva and Romero. There are those who say that the fight that Assemblyman Romero is now facing is a fight between him and former Senator Villanueva. I deny that. I did not permit a fight between Mindoy (Governor Villanueva) and Romero. They are both my friends, they are both my associates, they both belong to my party, and they both have rendered a service to this Government that the people of this province should always remember and recognize /Applause/ I do not pay much attention to what people say in time of election. There are always those who take pleasure in telling stories about this and about that. All I want to tell you is that the victory of Romero is not the defeat of Hermenegildo Villanueva, nor is the victory of Hermenegildo Villanueva the defeat of Romero. The victory of Romero is the victory of this province and, therefore, of Hermenegildo Villanueva who is always with you in every thing that is good for you. /Applause/

It is a pity to see that there should be a misunderstanding between those who work in harmony and in cooperation for the best interests of this province. As for me, once more I say: personally, I have no interest, as nobody in this province can do me good or harm. It is the interest of this province which induces me to appeal to you to support your representatives, Guillermo Villanueva and Jose Romero. /Applause/ But if you do not want to vote for them, go ahead and do not do so. I am not going to resent the fact that the Province of Oriental Negros votes for the candidates it likes. I am not one of those who preach one thing and do another. When I say that I want the people to vote freely, I mean that they should vote freely whether they vote for my candidates or not. Freedom of the vote is what I want.

And now, I say goodbye to you; I wish you luck and I wish you success. Above all, I wish you to have a peaceful, orderly and clean election. /Applause/

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Government Policy, Electoral Campaigns, and Re-election of Assemblymen for Oriental Negros, November 3, 1938

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Government Policy, Electoral Campaigns, and
Re-election of Assemblymen for Oriental Negros**

[Delivered at the public plaza in Dumaguete, Oriental Negros, November 3, 1938]

Mr. Governor, People of Dumaguete and of the Province of Oriental Negros:

This is my second visit to Dumaguete in three years. When I last came here the governor of this province was my dear friend, ex-Senator Hermenegildo Villanueva. He is now out of this province performing a duty which I have entrusted him. In his place, you have a new governor, Governor Teves, and I desire to take advantage of this, my first visit during his incumbency, to extend him my whole-hearted support and coöperation for the success of his administration. [*Applause*]

The provincial governors are the representatives of the President of the Philippines in the provinces, and it is my desire to lend each provincial governor the help that my office can give in order that his administration may be successful. My support, however, of a governor will be in proportion as he complies with his duties and serves the people well. I have stated more than once that under my administration there will be more government and less politics. By that I mean that under my administration political considerations have very little weight. The Government is one thing and political parties another. Political parties are constituted for the purpose of organizing men who have the same political ideals and of helping party office seekers secure positions. Political parties are mere instruments of the people with which to choose their officials. But when, after an election, a man is elected through the efforts of one political party, he becomes the chosen official of the people, no longer the chosen official of the party. If a political party tries to use the men who belong to it and who occupy official positions to foster its aims and promote its interests, that party is unworthy of the confidence of the people. Once a man is chosen to occupy a public office, he is no longer the servant of a party, but the servant of the whole people. Therefore, it is the duty of every provincial governor, as it is the duty of every municipal mayor, and, above all, the duty of the President of the Philippines, to regard themselves as servants of the people only, and not as servants of the party to which they belong. As such servants of the people, it is their duty to do justice, to comply with the law without favor to anyone—even to those who are closest to them for political or personal reasons. That is what I mean when I said that under my administration there will be more government and less politics. By that I mean that if a man who is a member of the Nacionalista Party is a crook, the fact that he is a member of that party will not save him from prosecution. On the other hand, if a man who is a member of the opposition party is right, his right will be protected as much as that of a member of the majority party.

I have come for two purposes—one is to officially inspect this province, the other to say a few words to you here. Two days ago I informed the governor that I was coming here and that I wanted to meet all the provincial as well as the local officials. I have just been in Cebu where I had done the same thing; I notified the governor that I was going there and wanted all the provincial and municipal mayors to meet me in Cebu. One of the mayors of Cebu, a friend and partisan of Secretary Cuenco, did not come and I suspended him from office. He had been told by the Governor that I was coming and that I wanted to meet the mayors, but he did not come. Perhaps he thought that because he belonged to the party of Secretary Cuenco I would forgive him. Secretary Cuenco is one of the members of my Cabinet. He is not only one of the members of the Cabinet but also one who has been loyal to me politically for many years. Besides that, Secretary Cuenco has been unable to save his mayor; I suspended him. The same thing happened here this afternoon. Four mayors did not come; I have suspended them. My friend, Mr. Medina has come to me and interviewed on behalf of these mayors. He tells me that they were out and did not receive the call. On the other hand, the Governor tells me that he sent word to them. Well, I want to know who is the recognized chief of this province, Mr. Medina or the Provincial Governor. [*“Teves!” shouted the public*] It is strange that the municipal mayors should notify Mr. Medina where they are and not notify their governor where they can be found. If these

mayors believe that there is somebody in this province who can protect them when they do not comply with the law, they are mistaken. The immediate chief of the mayors is their governor, and a mayor who does not comply with the order of the governor when the order is legal, will be removed from office by me. [Applause] I suppose if an American governor-general had come to meet him Let every Filipino know that the President of the Philippines has at least as much authority as any American governor-general ever had, and that a Filipino President of the Philippines is entitled to the respect and obedience of the citizens of this country because his office came from the people themselves. Perhaps I should have thought that the absence of those mayors was due to some good cause. The mere fact that Mr. Medina knows why they are absent gives me reason to believe that their absence is due to political reason. And so I am going to remove. . . no, suspend them. The worst that can happen to our people, once given the right to choose our own officials is to be incapable of giving them due respect and consideration. If there is any man who believes that the Government we now have is a joke, he had better think it over again. This is a government duly constituted by the votes of our own people, a government that will impose its authority against everybody—and against the world if necessary. [Applause] I would never have accepted the position of President of the Philippines if I were not able to enforce my authority.

Gentlemen and countrymen, my only ambition is to have in our country a stable government that is just and fair, a government that is honest, a government that will protect the rights of everybody, a government before whom the lowliest man will receive the same consideration as the most powerful. [Applause] My only ambition is to be able to face my countrymen—those who voted for me and those who did not—and say to them that I am doing my duty by everybody, and that I am here to use the great powers of my office not in the interest of all the people including the humblest of them. [Applause]

The Province of Oriental Negros may well consider itself very fortunate. You always has as your representatives in the National Government men who served you with loyalty and received the support and cooperation of the authorities of the National Government.

The history of Hermenegildo Villanueva both in the upper and lower house of the Philippine Legislature is the history of a public servant devoted to the service of his people. [Applause] You have today two members of the National Assembly who have no superior in any province of the Philippines, either for their ability or fir their loyalty to their duty as your representatives to the National Government. It is not that Guillermo Villanueva is a member of my party; it is not that Jose Romero is a Nacionalista. Even if Guillermo Villanueva and Jose Romero were members of the opposition, still I would say of them what I say now: they have honored their province by their service in the National Legislature. [Applause] As far as I am personally of officially concerned, it makes no difference to me whom you elect from this province. If the members of the Assembly from Oriental Negros were elected to fight me, they could give me very little fight. [Applause] They can do me neither harm nor favor. They can do harm or favor to your province. But you have two members of the Assembly now who have been doing a lot of good to your province and if reelected will do you more good than ever. [Applause]

At my conference in the provincial government building this afternoon, I said that while I would like yo see these two members of the National Assembly reelected, there was one paramount question to me in the coming election, and that was that I wanted, above all, a clean election, an election where the will of the people is permitted to be expressed freely. I want an election where the law will be respected and complied with. The governor, the members of the provincial board, the mayors, and members of the municipal councils, are free to take part in the electoral campaign. They can support the candidates they want, whether they are official candidates of the Nacionalista Party or not. I want them to feel absolutely free to support the men that in their conscience they believe they should support. But the provincial treasurer, the district engineer, the Constabulary, the teachers, the policemen, and civil service officials in general have no right to vote for the candidate if their choice if they have the residence requirements, but they cannot do any electioneering.

Both Assemblymen Villanueva and Romero are candidates whose triumph I should like to see. But if the officials of the Government make any campaign, I will suspend and dismiss them from office. They can vote for Villanueva and Romero, and I hope they do vote for them, but they cannot make any campaign for them.

And now, just one more word. Very soon, on the fifteenth of this month, the first half of my administration will come to an end. Under my administration every activity of the government has improved. We have more schools,

more roads, more boys and girls in schools than we ever had before. We have a plan whereby within the next three years there will be schools in every barrio and teachers for all the boys and girls of school age so that no boy or girl of school age will be deprived of the opportunity of primary education. We will give the people clean drinking water. I promised one of the mayors in the conference this afternoon that he would have good drinking water. We will increase the number of dispensaries, improve the hospitals, and in every respect give the people better service and better government. Gentlemen, all these measures have been possible because the National Assembly approved the laws that enforce them. I have no power under the Constitution to enact these laws; it was the National Assembly that enacted them. If the people of the Province of Oriental Negros are pleased with my administration, they should be pleased with the service rendered to them by Assemblymen Villanueva and Romero. There are those who say that the fight that Assemblyman Romero is now facing is a fight between him and former Senator Villanueva. I deny that. I did not permit a fight between Mindoy (Governor Villanueva) and Romero. They are both my friends, they are both my associates, they both belong to my party, and they both have rendered a service to this Government that the people of this province should always remember and recognize. [Applause] I do not pay much attention to what people say in times of election. There are always those who take pleasure in telling stories about this and that. All I want to tell you is that the victory of Romero is not the defeat of Hermenegildo Villanueva, nor is the victory of Hermenegildo Villanueva the defeat of Romero. The Victory or Romero is the victory of this province and, therefore, of Hermenegildo Villanueva who is always with you in every thing that is good for you. [Applause]

It is a pity to see that there should be a misunderstanding between those who work in harmony and in cooperation for the best interests of this province. As for me, once more I say: personally, I have no interest, as nobody in this province can do me good or harm. It is the interest of this province which induces me to appeal to you to support your representatives, Guillermo Villanueva and Jose Romero. [Applause] But if you do not want to vote for them, go ahead and do not do so. I am not going to resent the fact that the Province of Oriental Negros votes for the candidates it likes. I am not one of those who preach one thing and do another. When I say that I want the people to vote freely, I mean that they should vote freely whether they vote for my candidates or not. Freedom of the vote is what I want.

And now, I say goodbye to you; I wish you luck and I wish you success. Above all, I wish you to have a peaceful, orderly and clean election. [Applause]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1938). *Messages of the President* (Vol. 4, Prt. 1). Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Speech of President Quezon on duties of the Cabinet and aims of the Administration, November 26, 1938

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**DUTIES OF THE CABINET AND AIMS OF THE
ADMINISTRATION**

[Delivered before the members of the new Cabinet, at Malacañan
Palace, Manila, November 26, 1938]

I wish to reiterate at this first meeting of my new Cabinet what I have stated individually to each one of its members, that I am determined more than ever to give to the Philippines not only an efficient government, but also a government that will be just to all, and one which will promote rapidly and soundly the enduring interests of our nation.

I have chosen the new members of the Cabinet purely on the strength of their proven ability and experience, particularly in the field of their respective departments, and with due regard to their demonstrated loyalty to the public service. These same considerations, and these alone, have induced me to retain the other members of my former Cabinet. I regret that I should now be deprived of the assistance and counsel of some members of my former Cabinet, whose resignations have been accepted upon their urgent request. I trust, however, that I shall be able to count upon their services in other important fields.

With the enlarged and increasingly complex activities of the Government, it will not be possible for me to exercise detailed supervision over the Departments. It would be physically impossible for me to do so, even if such were my desire, which is not. I, therefore, wish formally to advise you that it shall be my policy and purpose to rely completely upon the Secretaries of Departments for the direction and efficient operation of the executive branch of the Government. I shall devote myself mainly to the task of formulating general policies and ensuring that the activities of the Government are conveniently directed towards the execution of these policies. I wish the Secretaries of Departments to feel that they have my full confidence and that I do not expect to be consulted by them except in matters involving important new policies or modifications of those that have already been adopted.

I trust that intimate and effective cooperation will exist among the different Departments. Greater efficiency and much economy would be secured if this cooperation should exist. This could best be attained, I believe, through frequent exchange of views among members of the Cabinet to the end that, through common counsel, important problems facing one or several Departments might be met and solved with the cooperation of all the agencies of the Government.

My desire to give to the Philippines the best government of which we are capable is inspired by more than merely the considerations that should actuate a man who is elevated to the presidency of a free country. I feel that my duty in this regard is more imperative, because of my deep feeling of gratitude to our people for the unstinted support that they have given me in the past and the unswerving faith and trust that they have reposed upon me throughout the long years of my public service and of leadership in our struggles for self-government. I feel keenly that I owe it to them, to give the country not only an efficient government, but also one under which they will find opportunities and propitious conditions for social contentment and individual happiness. This is my uppermost thought and ambition as I start the second half of my administration. I look back with satisfaction upon the first three years of the Commonwealth Government, believing firmly that we have made a good beginning and have laid the foundations

for future progress. I am not aware of many things in which we could have done better; I am convinced that, in all respects, I tried to do the best I could for the public welfare, sparing neither effort nor my health in the task. My fervent wish is that at the end of my administration, the people would feel that I had done everything within my power to safeguard their liberties and their happiness, that I had been faithful to their trust, that I had been just and righteous to all, and that I had administered their affairs according to my best lights, both of heart and mind, under the guidance of a Divine Providence whose aid and blessings I invoke continuously for the security and welfare of our country.

As your President and your friend, I bespeak your unstinted coöperation in the fulfillment of this aim.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Christmas Message of President Quezon to the People of the Philippines, December 3, 1938

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Released to the *Free Press*, December 3, 1938]

I send my Xmas greetings to all the people of the Philippines and particularly to the less fortunate families—those who do not have means to gladden the hearts of their little ones with toys. My thoughts on Xmas will be of these, and how to improve their lot, so that in years to come they may celebrate Xmas, not in want but in abundance.

God bless us all.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Christmas Message of President Quezon to the People of the Philippines, December 24, 1938

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Released to the Press, December 24, 1938]

Nativity finds our homes blessed with peace and our country free from the holocausts that have wrought tragedy and sorrows among peoples in other lands. These blessings we are now enjoying, thanks to the principles exemplified in the life of Jesus, who taught us to love our fellowmen and to practice humility and charity. As we thank Him “from whom all blessings flow,” let us not forget those who have been less endowed than we are, and whose plight clamors for our kindly aid in things both material and spiritual. Let us impart to them Love, Hope, and Charity. It was in an effort to observe these Christian virtues that during the past three years of my administration, I earnestly endeavored to achieve the social amelioration and material welfare of our needy masses. And as it has been in the past, so will my administration in the future be directed, with even greater determination and courage, towards making our country the home of a happy and prosperous people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the luncheon given in Honor of Provincial Governors, January 19, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At the luncheon given in Honor of Provincial Governors**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, on January 19, 1939]

NEW POLICY IN HANDLING PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

Gentlemen:

I am glad to have you here to meet the new Cabinet. With such a formidable Cabinet I am confident that the administration of public affairs in the next three years will reach the highest efficiency, so that it would be impossible for my successor to surpass their work unless he were fortunate enough to have these men for his Cabinet. As I have announced, I will initiate a new policy in handling the affairs of the Government. I will now hold every Secretary directly responsible for running his Department, and I will only consider matters affecting the Departments when the law requires my final determination or when the decision of the Secretary is appealed to me. This means that provincial officials must take up their cases first with the Secretary of the Interior, or if the question involved is in the hands of another Department, then it must be taken up with the Secretary concerned. You will come to me only when you think that you have been wrongly denied the remedy you had been working for. I need not tell you that both the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Finance, who, by virtue of the existing laws, have more business to do with the provincial government than any of the other Departments, will cooperate in every way with you in expediting all matters pertaining to your administration that are brought up to them. They called my attention to the exasperating delay in handling the business of the provinces, and they submitted this question in order that ways and means could be formed to obviate the technicalities and formalities involved in handling routine business from the provinces. I told them that I had already taken steps to that effect even before the last meeting of the Cabinet. Some governors, among them the Governor of Iloilo who first presented the question to me, stated that there have been cases in which provincial governments functioned without budgets for months. So when I returned from a cruise, I recommended to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Finance to allow the provincial governors to authorize somebody in the province to act for them, unless for some special reason they should personally act on the matter.

I think that is all I have to tell you with reference to your work. I am hopeful that the next three years would witness a great step forward in the administration of public affairs, what with a Cabinet composed of men of proven ability and a National Assembly at whose head is a man whose ability, patriotism, and knowledge of the necessities of the country had been amply demonstrated during the time he was Secretary of Justice. I refer to Speaker Yulo. I expect, therefore, that the whole government machinery—particularly the executive and the legislative branches—would cooperate intelligently and efficiently in the next three years.

Whenever you have a business to transact with the National Assembly, do it through the Department of the Interior. If it happens that neither the Department of the Interior nor I approve of what you believe the Legislature could do for you, then go to the Speaker. But you should not go to the assemblymen, otherwise you would disorganize the whole establishment of the Commonwealth. I would not interpose any objection if you should propose measures to the Secretary of the Interior or the National Assembly. But let the Secretary of the Interior do it for you. You might also appoint a committee that would present your proposals to the Speaker and have the National Assembly act upon them. But I will not recommend to the National Assembly any measure proposed by you which I do not approve of; but if it is a good measure, I may be willing to approve it although the Assembly may have turned it down. On the other hand, if I shall veto any bill approved by the National Assembly if I find any fundamental objection to it. Remember, I do not want to deprive you of every opportunity to take up your questions with the appropriate agency of the Government. Therefore, the Secretary of the Interior is the first official you should approach; next, is the Secretary of Finance. If you do not get support from them, then you may go to the Assembly. Do not approach the

assemblymen; instead, present your case to the Speaker and let him handle it. When the matter comes up to me, you may appoint a committee to see me, and if you can convince me of the merit of the case, then I shall give it my approval.

Gentlemen: I want you to feel confident that you have the support of the National Government; that I want you to be good governors first and politicians later. Do not invert that arrangement. Since you are elective officials, your first responsibility is to be the head of your province. Your being local head of your party is only secondary. As long as you act thus, you will get the cooperation of the National Government. So do not put politics above every consideration, otherwise you will not get our support in your cases. I may go further than that. Remember that the Supreme Court has decided the Carmen Planas case, which was interesting because Planas claimed that she made the charges as an ordinary citizen and not as member of the Municipal Board. But I am positive that I shall not do that in your case, as the Secretary of the Interior is confident that he has a fine group of governors and mayors. I agree with him. That does not mean, however, that I think everyone of you is a good governor. /Applause./

You must examine your conscience. If you honestly think that you are not entitled to the above opinion of the President, then you had better improve yourself. There is still room for improvement. Right now do not think of starting your campaign for reelection; instead, think more of your responsibilities to your constituents. With very few exceptions—for there are always exceptions—our people usually vote for a governor who is a good man rather than a good politician. They know who would be a good governor. A man who believes that he could be elected by pleasing a few party leaders is fooling himself. You may play politics with some people, but you cannot play politics with everybody. Your best politics is justice and efficiency in the service.

That reminds me of my visit to Pampanga the other day. I have a fishery there by the river. There are no Socialists and no labor troubles between sugar centrals and planters in that particular place. The people are peaceful because fishpond owners treat them fairly and justly, and are happy because they live near the river. In a talk with the people, I asked them about their governor. Some old men there still remember certain governors because they believe them to be good executives, and it so happened that these governors had had reelections. When they spoke to me, I knew they were not partisan because they mentioned good governors. One of the things that give me the greatest pleasure in life is when I find myself in a heart-to-heart talk with the people. They remember the good governors who gave them concrete roads. I told this to Governor Baluyot in spite of the fact that they do not speak highly of him. I know they would speak of him better if he were not only so aggressively partisan. Good governors can be reelected if they do justice to the people; and a good party man could do more for the party by carrying out its policies than by playing cheap politics. Give the people a good government and they will acclaim our party as the best.

I think we now have a good Secretary of the Interior. I do not mean that Secretary Quirino had not been a good Secretary; but certainly the Department of the Interior has not lost anything by the appointment of his successor. As department head Secretary Quirino was a very active man with high principles, and he was devoted completely to service. I regretted to have let him go; but since I had decided to change the Cabinet in order to bring in new blood to the Government, I was forced to accept his resignation. So what I say of Secretary Alunan and my present Cabinet does not mean that Secretary Quirino had been otherwise. The appointment of Secretary Alunan does not in any way reflect upon the ability of Secretary Quirino. In fact, I am very fond of him personally and officially. I was very much pleased with the way he ran his Department. As the Government has more activities now than before, it might be certain that when Secretary Quirino came to the Department of the Interior, he formed new policies. I have no doubt that Secretary Alunan would not only carry them out but also give them new impetus and new life.

I wish you all success in your administration and I sincerely hope that you will receive the cooperation of the Secretary of the Interior and the other Secretaries, as well as that of the Speaker of the Assembly who, I think, will give this Government all the help that he can possibly render. I thank you.

From Messages of the President, Vol. 5, Part I, pp. 3-7

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on respect for Property Rights and Government Plans for Buenavista Estate,
January 31, 1939**

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**RESPECT FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS AND GOVERNMENT
PLANS FOR BUENAVISTA ESTATE**

[Delivered at Barrio Cruz-Na-Daan, in San Rafael, Bulacan,
on January 31, 1939]

Countrymen:

I have come here to ask you if you who work in this estate wish the Government to intervene and devise a way so that in the end the estate will become yours. Before I decide on what the Government should do in this matter, I desire to know first your feelings, for I understand that you—the majority or a few of you—have filed a complaint with the court against the owner of this hacienda; and I do not want others to tell you that you lost your case because of Government intervention, and to which you would add that I had desired to save the San Juan de Dios Hospital from this litigation. If you want to be left alone and the Government not to do anything, I may just as well go home now and leave you among yourselves. But I am informing you that you should not transgress the law and the decisions of the court.

The first duty of the Government, which is also my first duty, is to have all persons comply with the mandates of the law and the decisions of the court. So if anyone among you wishes to speak, or if the town mayors of San Ildefonso and San Rafael can express your feelings, they can speak now.

Mayor Valte.—Mr. President, inasmuch as Your Excellency desire to know what our wishes are, I will state them: the lessees of San Rafael desire that the Government either buy or expropriate the estate and then subdivide and sell it to the people.

Mayor Verde.—Your Excellency, fellow citizens. I simply wish to say this: Let the Government buy this estate and give it to the people. [*Shouts at the people: "We do not like that!"*]

A Citizen.—We desire the Government to acquire this estate, and afterwards we would be at the disposal of the Government.

The President.— Now, I am going to speak again. I have heard rumors that you disagree among yourselves in your objective. That is precisely the reason why I have come here. Many persons have told me that you want the Government to purchase the Buenavista Estate for resale among you: news has reached me also that your desire is to have the land you now occupy or work on given to you. The Government cannot buy this land and give it to you free. In the first place, the National Assembly has no power to donate to anyone any property purchased by the Government. In the second place, even if the National Assembly has that power, yet our Government has no money with which to buy all the estates in the Philippines for distribution among the people. And if other provinces should learn that the Government bought the Buenavista Estate and gave it to you without cost, other provinces having similar estates would demand of us to do likewise on the haciendas within their territories.

Countrymen: I shall speak frankly before you. I never say anything that does not come from my heart, and I never make any promise which is beyond my ability to perform or which I cannot execute. So, what I will tell you now is my true conviction which I am ready to carry out. I said that it is impossible for the Government to donate its own property to you, and I give the reason why. Should—as you desire—the Government purchase this estate, it would be necessary for you not only to promise to pay back the amount that might be advanced by the Government, but also to keep that promise, or I would compel you to pay for it. And if there are leaders or candidates here who will tell you or promise you that through their intervention the payment would be condoned, do not believe in them because they will not be able to accomplish what they say or promise.

A Citizen.—We filed an action in court in order to obtain a clarification, but it will take a long time to obtain a decision of the case. But if Your Excellency could make the matter clear to us, we would greatly appreciate the explanation. We want to know if the Government would expropriate or confiscate the estate, because an expropriation proceeding will determine the rightful owner of this estate. If the President would expropriate this estate and it could be proven that it should be bought, we would be ready to pay the parties concerned.

The President.—I do not believe that your litigation over the ownership of this estate could be terminated by means of an expropriation proceeding. What I guess will likely happen is that the possessor of the Torrens title will be recognized by the court as the lawful owner; but remember that I am not the court, nor do I have any power to decide such cases. The court will decide that. If what worries you is the probable outcome of your case in the event that the Government buys, expropriates, or leases the estate from the actual possessor, then you need not worry about it, for whatever agreement we might enter into with the San Juan de Dios Hospital would be made with a stipulation that you could continue your litigation if that should be your wish, and the decision of the court would be followed afterwards.

A Citizen.—Should, by chance, the Government purchase the estate, and since we are not in favor of dropping the case, we then would not pay for it yet because this case is still under litigation.

The President.—You may not pay the value of the land while the case is pending; because in this litigation the question being determined is not whether you are or the Hospital is the owner of the estate, but whether the owner is the Government or the Hospital. Therefore, to whichever the court would recognize as owner—the Government or the San Juan de Dios Hospital—you must pay the rent because the land is not yours.

A Citizen.—If Your Excellency would decide the dispute over this hacienda, we would all be in favor of your decision because you are the President of the Philippines.

Another Citizen.—What I may say, Mr. President, is that if the Government should lease the estate now, it would mean a transgression of a question at issue, because this case is still pending in court; so it is necessary first to determine its ownership. Later, when the ownership is determined, the land may then be sold to us.

The President.—It is not true, if the Government leases this estate from the San Juan de Dios Hospital and you, in turn, be required to pay the rent, that this situation would be in violation of the question at issue before the court; because until after the case is terminated, it is really the holder of the Torrens title that should be recognized as the owner. Therefore, even if the Government leases this estate and you in turn rent it from the Government, such would not be an impediment to the decision to be rendered by the court on your case. The recognition by the Government that the owner of this estate is the San Juan de Dios Hospital rests upon the fact that the Hospital has the Torrens title and is actually in possession of the estate. More than this you, of course, have been paying your rentals of the estate to the Hospital. I also know a little of the law because I am a lawyer. If you wish to entrust this matter to me, I will tell you now what I intend to do. You, the people of San Ildefonso and San Rafael, should have faith in that my heart is with you; for if it were not so, even only upon Judge Endencia's decision that the share of the harvest corresponding to you be not taken first and that the entire crop instead should be deposited with the depository. I already would have ordered Constabulary soldiers to keep watch on the palay harvest. But you know quite well that I did not do that: instead, I had Judge Endencia asked that he revise his decision and award to the tenants their share of the harvest. I took into account the fact that those tenants who were to be deprived of their share would have no means of subsistence and would, therefore, starve. [*Shouts of "Long live the President!"*] You know also that Judge

Endencia revised his decision and the tenants were allowed to get their share. I was later informed that after the court had permitted the tenants to acquire their share, there were a few who did what they should not have done; and they not only took their share but also meddled with the portion pertaining to the owners.

Please understand well what I will say. When I heard of this incident in San Rafael and San Ildefonso, I entertained ill-feelings against you. I felt bad because I considered that you did not appreciate the assistance I had given you so that the court would allow the tenants to obtain their share, thus respecting your rights.

Countrymen: A person who desires his rights to be respected has a corresponding duty to recognize the rights of others. One who would not recognize the rights of his fellow men should not expect others to respect his rights. Those persons who took the crop which did not pertain to them actually transgressed the law, discredited our Government, and looted the property of another.

I wish to remind you now that when I accepted this position which the people bestowed upon me, I swore I would have the laws and the decisions of the courts obeyed and respected, and I would defend the rights of all. I am responsible to God, to the country, and to my conscience for the performance of what I swore to do. So I wish you to know that I will order the arrest of anyone who will violate the law, disregard court decisions, ignore the rights of others, or get what does not lawfully belong to him, so that the court can mete out the appropriate punishment. I entreat you, in the name of our country and our Government, and of your love for peace in our land and stability of your economic welfare, not to commit any violation of the law and existing rights. In the first place, because you would only compel me to employ force against you; secondly, because you would weaken my stand in my desire to improve the living condition of both the poor and the laborers. On the day that the laborers decide to use means which are against the law or violate the rights of their fellow men, they would not triumph, because the Government would then be their enemy. So do not place me in such an embarrassing position. I am telling you frankly that my primordial aim in this life is to help my impoverished countrymen, especially the farmhands and factory laborers. If during my administration I could give comfort to the life of the laborers, I would more than consider it as divine luck, because I then would have had an opportunity to help my people. If you want to see what I have been wishing for night and day—that our nation be peaceful, our people progressive and happy, and the lot of the poor class ameliorated—then lend me your cooperation and do not commit any disturbance or any untoward act. Give the Government sufficient time to uphold your rights. Do not believe any person who tells you that in being obdurate and by going against the law of the Government, your rights would be respected. You will not get anything by so doing.

Countrymen: I have no desire to be a candidate again. Three years from now. I shall be a mere Juan de la Cruz. Therefore, you should believe in what I say because only your welfare and the betterment of our country are what I am wishing for. I wish to remind you also that no person can prosper materially through the help of others alone. One's prosperity will come, first of all, from his own perseverance. He who refuses to be persevering, who does not want to work—in short, the lazy—shall never amount to anything. A person who does nothing but scratch his head will not prosper in life, whatever help the Government may render him. All my plans to bring amelioration to the laborer—to increase his earnings and to help him acquire his own land—have no value to a person who wastes his time in fondling fighting cocks.

I will now answer those tenants who wish this estate expropriated. I do not think that it is the best means which the Government should employ. I fear that through expropriation proceedings the Government will pay a higher price. This land is valued at P4,190,601.35, according to its certificate of assessment. If we resort to expropriation, I do not know what price the court would consider as reasonable. It might be P4,250,000. None can foretell what the opinion of the court would be. If I do not expropriate this estate, I think that it can be bought at P3,000,000, more or less. My worry concerns you, because you yourselves will have to pay, in the end, for whatever will be the price of the estate.

What we plan to do is to enter into an agreement with the Board of Directors of the San Juan de Dios Hospital in order to have this land leased to us annually at P100,000, which amount would be increased by P2,000 every succeeding year. However, within 25 years, the Government could buy it for P3,000,000. Under the lease plan, we shall form a cooperative association with you as members. You will also manage it. You will choose the directors of the association and they will take charge of the collection and payment of rentals. The directorate will decide all matters pertaining to the progress of the association and the increase of your profits from the land. The Government

will appoint a manager who will aid the directorate in running the association. For the construction of improvements on the estate, the Government will also lend the association the necessary capital which will bear an interest of only 4 per cent annually. If you borrow money from the association, you will pay an interest of 6 per cent; so that whoever borrows P100, for instance, will pay only P6 as interest for one year.

The Government will construct roads, build schoolhouses, dig artesian wells, and give you free dispensaries on the estate. If you agree to our plan, we will proceed with it; if not, then the Government will not interfere in this matter.

A Citizen.—I am only a tenant, and my whole crop was taken by my landlord.

The President.—I have no power on that matter. File a complaint in court.

A Citizen.—But, Your Excellency, I do not have money to pay a lawyer and the fees in court. (Right there the President instructed the provincial governor to give the old tenant a public defender.)

The President.—You will have a plebiscite here to decide this question.

A Citizen.—What if our votes should be changed, Mr. President?

The President.—Why should they be changed? Who will change them? Do not worry about that: I will not let that happen.

My countrymen from San Ildefonso and San Rafael: I wish to reiterate what I said a while ago: that I will leave you alone to decide your own question. If you desire the Government to accomplish what I propose, it will do it; if you do not want it, it will not. In short, in your hands lies the realization of the plans regarding this estate. But whatever be your decision. I enjoin you to maintain peace. I wish you to be peaceful, because a troubled country will never be progressive and its people cannot enjoy prosperity. Besides, the Government cannot allow you to be always in chaos. Our Government is not simply a joke. The Government will not allow any citizen to unlawfully cultivate land which is not his, or grab the property of another.

You can continue with your case in court, but it is necessary that, in the meantime, you must respect the rights of others and abide by the decision of the court. If the court rules later that this estate on which you work is the property of the Government and not of the San Juan de Dios Hospital, still it cannot be given to you free; instead it will be necessary for you to pay the Government for it, though at a little cost. On the other hand, if the court decides in favor of the San Juan de Dios Hospital, it is equally necessary that you respect the decision and either pay the rent for your lot to or buy the lot from the Hospital. None can promise that he can save you if you will not recognize the decision of the court, and if he does so, you can be sure that he will not be able to do anything. So, unless you are really willing to wield bolos and use your own strength to fight the Government, you should do what I am telling you now.

There are many persons assuming to be he-men who instigate their countrymen to commit disorder, but when the time comes for them to be tried, they disappear; you cannot locate them for they keep on hiding.

A Citizen.—Your Excellency, I only wish to inform you that I was brought up here as a child and I am over 70 years old now. Even in my childhood I saw that the land comprising this estate was but small; today, however, it covers a very big area.

The President.—I know that because that is the history of most of the estates. The truth is that if it were not only against the law, I would want to get this estate without payment and simply give it to you free. Ah! my friends, I know that this estate was a forest in the past, and it was only cleared and tilled because of your industry. I know what happened here, so I am willing to be of help to you. I know the history of the estates in the Philippines, so I am assiduously looking for a way so that those estates would become the property of the people. But we have a law which gives validity to the Torrens title. As long as the court does not decide that a Torrens title held by a person or

corporation is of no value, it is necessary that all should respect the said title and it is the duty of the Government to defend the ownership of those who possess Torrens title.

Finally, I am requesting the provincial governor, as well as the mayors and barrio lieutenants of San Ildefonso and San Rafael, that they should keep in mind the responsibility of a public official. The first thing they must perform is their duty. If, by chance, the municipal mayors here or their barrio lieutenants are affiliated with the *Handa Na* and *Dumating Na* societies, they should bear in mind that their responsibility as mayors and barrio lieutenants enjoin them to serve the law and not their society. If by chance they have affiliates in the society who violate the law, they should not close their eyes or side with their co-members-otherwise, I will remove them from office. The will of an association should not be followed by an official of the government; it must be the mandate of the law. I expect the authorities of these two towns to comply with their duty to help and serve the country, to obey and enforce the law. It is their duty to defend the oppressed and punish the wrongdoers even if the latter are their relatives, *compadres*, or co-members in their society.

Friends and Countrymen: I bid you good-bye, and many thanks. [*Shouts of "Long live the President!"*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Funds for Athletics in the Philippines, February 12, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Funds for Athletics in the Philippines**

[Delivered at the inauguration of the annual interscholastic meet held under the auspices of the Bureau of Education, at the Quezon Stadium and Athletic Field in Batangas, February 12, 1939]

Speaker Yulo, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Had I known beforehand that this stadium and athletic field in Batangas would be named after me, I would have granted P90,000, instead of P30,000 which I allowed former Secretary of Finance Antonio de las Alas, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sweepstakes Board, to use for its construction. [*Laughter*] But while I have the cause of athletics in the Philippines at heart, yet I am not in favor of the proposal to use the funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes for the purpose, because I feel that the Government should provide the money with which to promote wholesome and sane athletics.

Let me explain further my stand on this matter. I am against the use of the sweepstakes money for the construction of athletic fields and swimming pools, because I believe that these projects should be met squarely by the Government with public funds. I have plans to ask the National Assembly to set aside the necessary funds, if there should be any still available in the treasury, for the opening of athletic fields in the country so that the cause of athletics in the Philippines may be well served.

In the last few years I have followed with keen interest the development of athletics among the Filipino youth, and I have realized the great interest which the public schools have shown in this line. I wish to publicly congratulate the teachers for this significant achievement. But, I repeat, in promoting sports among the school children, the sweepstakes money should not be used; for this should be spent mainly for charitable work. To this end, if I find that the National Assembly is not in a position to appropriate funds for this purpose, I will see to it that any money left from the public works funds be utilized in the furtherance of the athletic program of the Bureau of Education. I am also very much impressed by the folk dances and the gymnastic exhibitions which have just been magnificently performed by the students who came from all over the archipelago.

I want you to know that I have come to Batangas primarily to visit the coffee plantations and the ham-curing factories in the province. I say this, because I do not want it to be said of me that I am showing some preference for Batangas by being present at the inauguration of this athletic meet. I have come to this meet; but not in response to the invitation extended to me by your governor, because I rejected a similar invitation from the governor of Leyte sometime ago. I accepted the invitation and I have come here not as President of the Philippines but in my other capacity as Secretary of the Public Instruction. When the other invitation was extended to me, I was not acting secretary then, so I declined to accept it.

I will now declare the meet open, but this I do as Secretary of Public Instruction, not as President of the Commonwealth.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1939). *Messages of the President* (Vol. 5, Prt. 1). Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Speech of President Quezon during the Inauguration of the Annual Interscholastic Meet held under the Auspices of the Bureau of Education, February 12, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
During the Inauguration of the Annual Interscholastic Meet
held under the Auspices of the Bureau of Education**

[Delivered at the Quezon Stadium and Athletic Field, Batangas, February 12, 1939]

Speaker Yulo, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Had I known beforehand that this stadium and athletic field in Batangas would be named after me, I would have granted P90,000, instead of P30,000 which I allowed former Secretary of Finance Antonio de las Alas, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sweepstakes Board, to use for its construction. /Laughter/ But while I have the cause of athletics in the Philippines at heart, yet I am not in favor of the proposal to use the funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes for the purpose, because I feel that the Government should provide the money with which to promote wholesome and sane athletics.

Let me explain further my stand on this matter. I am against the use of the sweepstakes money for the construction of athletic fields and swimming pools, because I believe that these projects should be met squarely by the Government with public funds. I have plans to ask the National Assembly to set aside the necessary funds, if there should be any still available in the treasury, for the opening of athletic fields in the country to that the cause of athletics in the Philippines may be well served.

In the last few years I have followed with keen interest the development of athletics among the Filipino youth, and I have realized the great interest which the public schools have shown in this line. I wish to publicly congratulate the teachers for this significant achievement. But, I repeat, in promoting sports among the school children, the sweepstakes money should not be used; for this should be spent mainly for charitable work. To this end, if I find that the National Assembly is not in a position to appropriate funds for this purpose, I will see to it that any money left from the public works funds be utilized in the furtherance of the athletic program of the Bureau of Education. I am very much impressed by the folk dances and the gymnastic exhibitions which have just been magnificently performed by the students who came from all over the archipelago.

I want you to know that I have come to Batangas primarily to visit the coffee plantations and the ham-curing factories in the province. I say this, because I do not want it to be said of me that I am showing some preference for Batangas by being present at the inauguration of this athletic meet. I have come to this meet; but not in response to the invitation extended to me by your governor because I reacted a similar invitation from the governor of Leyte sometime ago. I accepted the invitation and I have come here not as President of the Philippines but in my other capacity as Secretary of Public Instruction. When the other invitation was extended to me, I was not acting secretary then, so I declined to accept it.

I will now declare the meet open, but this I do as Secretary of Public Instruction, not as President of the Commonwealth.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon before a mass gathering of farm laborers and tenants, February 14, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before a mass gathering of farm laborers and tenants**

[Delivered in San Fernando, Pampanga, February 14, 1939]

LABOR CONFLICTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AMELIORATION OF THE LABORING CLASS

I am not seeking my own popularity; what I desire is the peace of the country, that benefit will the Philippines get if I am the only one with whom the country is pleased, while you are at loggerheads?

I would like to see the moneyed class and the poor folks associate cordially with each other, as it is by this means alone that we could insure peace and maintain order in our country.

I know the situation of a laborer; I know that a man who is in a miserable condition thinks nothing and cannot think of anything except his way of getting some relief; and if nothing can help him out of his predicament, and he may die of hunger or of sacrifice, he cannot think anymore of his country; he cannot love anymore his countryman, because only his feelings and sufferings may dominate over his heart and mind.

I have no enemy. My responsibility to my position is a responsibility to all. I have a duty to defend the rights of the property owners, and likewise those of the poor. I favor the laboring class not because I desire to grab the property of the rich; I side with them owing to the fact that in order that the rich may enjoy peace and his legitimate share, he must give what rightfully belongs to his laborers.

Just be tolerant; have some more patience. If in the building of a shack you need to devote a few days or weeks, how much more when we are constructing a big and beautiful mansion, where we can reside peacefully and happily forever?

You can criticize anybody in the Government—that would not bother me a bit; what is important to me is your compliance with the laws.

I do not want to hear anybody say that this Government is weak; the Government will not let the people to be betrayed.

My social justice policy does not favor anybody—be he rich, poor, wise, or powerful. To every man will be given his due, but this does not mean that you will be given all that you desire. Social justice means that you should receive what is due to you; this does not mean that if you do not own any property, you will be given a piece of land, or that the land of another man will be taken away from him and be given to you.

I favor no one, be he my colleague, comrade, friend, or even my relative. I will always side with the man who is right.

The usurious practice of lending money should be stopped now! What interest can a hungry and miserable man, who has nothing to eat, give?

MY COUNTRYMEN:

I have listened attentively to all what Mr. Pedro Abad Santos said on your behalf, and I shall now speak to you on those same things.

For a long time now I have cherished the hope of being given an opportunity of addressing you, so when your leaders invited me I consented whole-heartedly to pay you a visit. The Secretary of Justice was present at my conference with your leaders who went to Manila. The Secretary is your townmate, and also the brother of the first speaker, Mr. Pedro Abad Santos. Through the Department of Justice, it is his duty to have the citizens comply with the laws of our Government, aside from his duty to see if the authorities or the townspeople are performing their functions, so that anyone who violates the law—be he rich or poor, vested with authority or not, a party leader or not—may be dealt with accordingly.

It was true, as Mr. Pedro Abad Santos said, that when your representatives called at my office and presented the complaints of the laborers and tenants here in Pampanga, I answered them that the Secretary of Justice, Mr. Jose Abad Santos, has the cause of the poor at heart. But I wish you to understand the meaning of what I have just said. That does not mean that he will side with you even if you are not in the right; it means that I will not let anyone of you to abuse if you are not in the right. (Applause and shouts of “Long live!”)

Accompanying me now are high officials of the Government: the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Justice, the Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, and the Chief of Constabulary. These officials are responsible for the peace of the country and the faithful performance of duties by all. The Secretary of Labor has the duty to hear the complaints of the laboring class and to investigate whether or not there is truth to their charges; if found justifiable, he may ask the capitalists and the landowners to recognize your rights, and if they do not accede, he can endorse the case to the Court of Industrial Relations.

According to Mr. Pedro Abad Santos, I am the only official interested in the welfare of the poor or the laborers here, and by that it seems as if I am really the only one on whom you place your hopes. He mentioned the Cuevo-Barredo case; he made reference, too, to my withdrawal of the Constabulary from the premises of the Pasudeco Central, and he also talked about my social justice policy. What he has said is true, but I do not want you to believe that I am the only official who looks after the well-being of the laboring class in the Philippines. My colleagues in the Cabinet and all my co-workers in the Government are cooperating with me in order to execute fully and properly the social justice program of my administration. Likewise, although I am not empowered to speak for the judiciary because, as you know, our Constitution has distributed the governmental powers to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, it seems there is truth when I say that during this period our courts, in making their decisions, are adhering to the principles of social justice, not that they are in sympathy with my administration—for they are under no obligation to follow me and I have no authority to compel them to obey me—but because this program is in consonance with the mandates of our Constitution, and it is, therefore, the duty of our courts to enforce and to give effect to all statutes in accordance with the spirit of our Constitution. So you must have confidence and hope not in me alone but also in the whole Government: in the executive, legislative, and judicial powers.

While it is true that I am the head of our nation, yet I am only a single individual, and however extensive the powers granted to me by the Constitution and our laws are, still it is impossible for me to seek the economic welfare of our country without the help of the other two departments of our Government—the judicial and the legislative—which are both cooperating with me in the immediate and successful realization of the social justice policy, which is a mandate of our Constitution. Perhaps there are still officials in the Executive Department as well as a few judges who do not fully understand yet the objectives of our Constitution and of a few of our laws. But you need not worry about them for, inasmuch as they are under the Executive Department, you can inform the respective department secretaries of their misdoings or policies which are not responsive to my program of administration. I promise you that any department secretary whom you may approach, should you have evidence of any violation to my policy, will mete out punishment to the wrongdoer. As to the judges, I cannot do anything. But if they violate the laws, accept bribes, or commit some injustices, even if they are not removed from office, yet their decisions can be appealed to the Supreme Court and we can be assured that the decisions of that body will be just and equitable. Although I appoint the judges, yet I cannot remove them if they have not committed any wrong. So, my countrymen, in order that your rights may be respected, in order that you may obtain what belongs rightfully to you, and in order

that you may prosper, it is not necessary for me to give you guns. I hope that, through my administration, your rights will triumph in the courts. (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”) If I give you guns, it may appear as if we have a war here. What would other nations say if they found out that the principle of social justice of the President of the Philippines was victorious only because all the inhabitants were armed? The remedy that I shall apply to bring about peace will be this: you should recognize not only my authority but also the powers of the provincial and municipal officials and all other officials of our Government. Your municipal mayors are the heads of their respective towns; your provincial governor is the head of the province. You ought to respect them. If they do you any wrong, file charges against them, and I assure you that they will be dealt with according. (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”)

But as long as they occupy their respective positions in the Government, you should recognize their authority and not have another government. In every town, only one government is formed, and that very government is the one that is recognized by all. You cannot simply organize associations and recognize only their authority, for such associations possess no powers like those of the Government. Those associations which you have organized in accordance with law are legal, and no one can prohibit you from proceeding with your undertakings, but your association or society is devoid of an authority similar to that of the Government. Should the officers of these organizations have complaints, they ought to appear before the corresponding authority in the Government—for instance, to the Secretary of the Interior. And it is not proper that you yourselves should decide matters affecting the welfare of the people and start disturbing the peace of the community by blowing the tambuli (horn) and say: “Go ahead!” I am talking to you now as a friend—your friend who understands you. I know you have faith in me as I suppose you understand that it is my heart that speaks today and not simply my lips! (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”)

Now, I shall answer the complaints of Mr. Pedro Abad Santos.

He said that some judges are using their authority in order to abuse you and cause you misery. If you can show evidence against the judges who are abusing their power, they can be removed. But if the judges have not committed any wrong, I feel there is no justification in removing them from office and I cannot do anything against them. In the Cuevo-Barredo case I did not consider the decision of the court to be just; but I was unable to do anything against the judge; it was enough that I said his decision was bad. Because of this I created many enemies, and almost all the lawyers in the Philippines were opposed to my intervention. But, because it was justice that I was seeking, I did not mind them, in order that I could defend your rights. (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”)

What Mr. Pedro Abad Santos said regarding bail seems right. The poor man goes to jail whenever he cannot put up the necessary bail; on the other hand, the rich man never enters it because of his money! (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”) Even though I have not thought of it earlier, yet I was able to obtain information on the trouble occurring here. When I learned that the poor could not furnish bail, I told the Secretary of Justice to remedy the situation so that persons charged with light offenses could be set free during the pendency of the case. (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”)

But those who face criminal charges cannot simply be set at liberty. For the present I shall consider the suggestion of Mr. Pedro Abad Santos, and I shall order a further study of this matter in order to find out the best means of enabling an accused person or the defendant in a case set at liberty, while his case is pending. But your leaders should promise me that if this be remedied you will not disturb the peace and violate the laws. If you make disturbances, I shall not help you seek the law’s change.

My countrymen: Now I shall tell you what I think regarding our troubles. But before I proceed, I must repeat once more what I have been saying time and again. I believe that at present our laborers in the Philippines are not receiving their rightful share for their labor. (Applause and shouts of “Long, live President Quezon!”) This is more so in the sugar industry in which the laborers have a right to better wages, because among all the industries in the Philippines, the sugar industry makes the most profit, and this profit does not only result from the investment which capitalists have made in the sugarcane field, but it is also due to the aid of the Government to the industry. Sugar is exported free to the United States, and this industry has also its envoy, who makes representations to the American Government so that sugar exportation is not curtailed. It is a recognized fact that the exportation of sugar to the United States should not be stopped at once. Hence, the Philippine Government has a right to request

the centralistas or the central owners, as well as the landowners to give a decent share of their profits to the laborers, for their profits are realized through the aid of the Government. (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”) This is not the only time when I said this. Once, when I spoke before the hacenderos and the central owners of Iloilo, I told them that it was their duty to look after the well-being of the laborers because their industry is getting benefits through the help of the Government.

The landowners here told me that I was to blame for your disorder. This is not true. I have already told the labor leaders that I will help them if they recognize and respect the law. But the moment they violate the laws, they will lose my cooperation. The share given to the landowners by the central owners here in Pampanga is smaller than that given to the landowners by central owners in Negros. Here, the Pasudeco actually gives only 50 per cent, although I have heard that it will increase the share in the near future. In Negros, 55 per cent is the share given to the landowners and tenants who plant sugar cane, while 45 per cent is retained by the central owners; and now 60 per cent is received by the sugar-cane owners, and only 40 per cent is kept by the centralistas. Here, it is on 50-50 share basis. It is, therefore, imperative that your centrals should draw up new contracts.

It is not possible, through the courts or by virtue of the power of the Government, to effect changes in their contracts, because it is the duty of the Government to respect the contracts of the centrals. But they ought to take the initiative, and the increase in the share of the planters and the landowners should come from them; and, afterwards, the landowners must increase the share they give the laborers. In provinces like Pampanga, the sugar centrals earn much profit, and so is the case with the landowners; but the tillers of the soil hardly get enough for their means of existence. (Shouts of “Long live!”) I cannot force the centrals to make changes in their contracts, neither can I compel the landowners to alter their terms with you; but if they will not take the initiative, I am ready to ask the National Assembly to approve a measure which will increase their land taxes, from which I expect to get what I shall give you. (Applause and shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”)

I should not have needed that the Government intervene in the improvement of the relationship between the field workers and the landowners on the one hand and the central owners on the other. And I do not want you to look upon this move to improve your living condition as a debt of the people to me or to my administration, for I am not seeking my own popularity; what I desire is the peace of the country. What benefit will the Philippines get if I am the only one with whom the country is pleased, while you are at loggerheads? Perhaps, I would be benefited were I still living, but suppose I am already dead? That is why every day I have always requested the capitalists to improve the living condition of the field workers because I would like to see the moneyed class and the poor folks associate cordially with each other, as it is by this means alone that we could insure peace and maintain order in our country. I do not like to see again what I am witnessing here this afternoon. I know that you who are gathered in this place, harbor ill-feelings and have an ax to grind against the property owners in Pampanga. I do not like to behold such an ugly sight. (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”) I feel very sorry, because you yourselves are harboring hatred against one another. I see that you do not love each other. How will your province appear if you fight among yourselves?

At this moment, I should like to appeal to the capitalists in order that they may extend the necessary help for your well-being. But if they would not accede to what I will request them to do, I shall be compelled to impose upon them through legislation.

My countrymen: I know the situation of a laborer; I know that a man who is in a miserable condition thinks nothing and cannot think of anything except his way of getting some relief; and if nothing can help him out of his predicament, and he may die of hunger or of sacrifice, he cannot think anymore of his country; he cannot love anymore his countrymen, because only his feelings and sufferings may dominate over his heart and mind. Hence, the paramount need in the Philippines today is a means whereby no person will be so miserable in life as not to be able to think of his duty to his native land. The Philippines is facing a very dangerous future. We shall be alone here. We will be duty-bound to defend the fate of our country in case a foreign nation comes to molest us. If our country is molested by any other nation, in order that every Filipino could feel, in the deepest core of his heart, true love for his native land, and that he may be prepared to readily offer his life in the defense of his country, it is necessary that he must have a decent living—a living, though not totals abundant, that at most must be sufficient as source of subsistence as long as he would want to work. It is not only a living enough for himself, his wife, and children,—not only sufficient to provide food for himself and his family,—that is needed, but one that must also furnish them

clothes even during Sundays only—clothes that are clean, and not those ragged and dirty ones worn throughout the year.

If we believe that the heart of the laborer throbs for the love of our country, we must exert our utmost to help every man in the Philippines to have a prosperous life. In order that we may expect a laborer to love and defend his country, it is necessary first to make him understand and feel that he is enjoying a prosperous life.

It is not because I am an enemy of the capitalists and landowners that I side with you now. No, indeed; I have no enemy. My responsibility to my position is a responsibility to all. I have a duty to defend the rights of the property owners, and likewise those of the poor. I favor the laboring class not because I desire to grab the property of the rich; I side with them owing to the fact that in order that the rich may enjoy peace and his legitimate share, he must give what rightfully belongs to his laborers.

I beseech you to have more patience; I ask you to desist from resorting to the worst—by burning the sugar-cane fields and harvesting the palay at your will and then seizing all, including that which does not belong to you. You must not do that! You should give the concerned his rightful share.

I know that in an incident here, the man who seized the palay was right. His landlord, the owner of the palay, was indebted to him. He wanted him to pay him first before giving his share of the crop. Since this is a civil case, it should be brought to the courts.

You should not violate the laws; it is not also proper that the landowners be given the opportunity to seek the intervention of the Government. The Government is duty-bound to give what help they ask for, and it can order the Constabulary to guard the palay.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that it takes time to help you improve your condition. Just be tolerant; have some more patience. If in the building of a shack you need to devote a few days or weeks, how much more when we are constructing a big and beautiful mansion, where we can reside peacefully and happily forever?

Now, with regard to strikes. Strikes are not always beneficial. They are powerful weapon in claiming your rights; but, they should not be overused. If you have any complaint, present them to the Department of Labor or to the Court of Industrial Relations. It is true that it takes time for these government entities to decide the questions at issue, as my friend, Mr. Pedro Abad Santos, has indicated here, but we cannot do anything. You cannot expect other officials to do what I can, for I can even give orders to the Chief of Constabulary and make him comply with them at any time; but the other departments or offices which are devoid of the powers like mine cannot be employed immediately. But, what shall we do? Such being the case, we should be tolerant and wait for the appropriate time.

My friends: You can always hope for my help as long as you comply with the law. Your complaints and the alleged injustices done to you can be taken to the courts and to the proper authorities; once there, you can unravel everything that is in your heart. It is, therefore, not necessary that you use guns or any other weapon. No law officer or government official can abuse you because justice is dispensed to all alike.

Strikes—don't you know?—are not the best methods to resort to because they are prejudicial to both the laborers and the employers. You should bear in mind that corporations have more money at their disposal than you. Even if you have a strong organization, still you should not immediately resort to a strike while you have not enough money to maintain yourselves during the period of the strike. It is, indeed, necessary that your organization should have sufficient money to meet any emergency in order to give support not only to its members but also to their wives and children who are dependent upon them.

When employers find themselves in an embarrassing labor situation and see that you are using force, they employ strike-breakers in order not to hamper their business activities and to protect their property. And if strike-breakers are molested, the employers may be compelled to seek the aid of the Government so as to maintain the peace and order of the country.

My friends: I shall send representatives of the Government here—officials of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Justice—in order to investigate and know what is actually happening in Pampanga. If you have been prejudiced in your case, let them know so that they can help you. You must know that we have laws which can be well availed of by the poor and which are a strong and effective weapon against the abuses of the rich and the landowners, but you have failed to make use of them.

In order that strikes may be avoided, I beg you to give me sufficient time, say, six months, to study the different phases of your problem and to remedy the situation. In this way, you may be able to receive your rightful share; and I promise you that the Government will exert its power to have the centrals give a better share to the landowners or hacenderos so that, in turn, they shall give a better share to you. Before the close of the present session of the National Assembly, we shall enact a measure which will increase the taxes of the centrals, and the income will be utilized by the Government to improve the sad plight of the laborers. But I warn you not to create any disorder or to violate any law or engage in any bloody conflict because only you yourselves in this province will be injured. Do not employ such means. At present, your complaint may reach the Government any moment. Also, either your representative or an authorized delegate of Mr. Pedro Abad Santos may, at any time, go to his brother who will hear your complaints.

You can criticize anybody in the Government—that would not bother me a bit; what is important to me is your compliance with the laws. If you want to meet, go on, and hold your meetings. You can even say that you will spill blood but you must not insinuate that you will cut the neck of a man; you can also shout that you will kill, but kill only in words and not in deeds. You can lambast any official in the Government or even my administration; this would not matter to me. What I particularly desire is that you here will enjoy permanent peace and that you will give the Government sufficient time to be able to intervene in your behalf and to study thoroughly your situation.

Before I came, I learned that Secretary Jose Abad Santos requested his brother, my friend, Mr. Pedro Abad Santos, not to display red banners in welcoming us. To me that is not important. You can use any color for banner—red, blue, or whatever color you wish; you can also organize here any party association, be it a socialistic or communistic organization; you can even discuss matters with tight-fisted hands; such will not bother me as long as you do not create any disorder or violate the laws. I do not want to hear anybody say that this Government is weak; the Government will not let the people to be betrayed.

I want to see you here in good company among yourselves, and without trouble. That is the purpose of my visit; my desire that we understand each other. And now that we are face to face with each other on this occasion, I wish to inform you that my social justice policy does not favor anybody—be he rich, poor, wise, or powerful. To every man will be given his due, but this does not mean that you will be given all that you desire. So, you are the ones to be benefited by social justice because you are the aggrieved party.

Social justice means that you should receive what is due to you; this does not mean that if you do not own any property, you will be given a piece of land, or that the land of another man will be taken away from him and be given to you.

Countrymen: In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to hear your complaints through my friend, Mr. Pedro Abad Santos. I promise you that it is not only myself but also the members of my Cabinet who will always be ready to take up your charges. I promise you also that I will not permit anybody to harass you or to use his influence, wealth, and power to abuse you. (Applause and shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”) Under my administration, all men are equal. I favor no one, be he my colleague, comrade, friend, or even my relative. I will always side with the man who is right. So, if you are being abused by anybody, let me hear your complaints, and I promise you that if you have sufficient evidence to prove his guilt I will punish him. But I ask you, in return for this promise, to show me your eagerness to help the Government not in words but in deeds, by obeying the laws, by avoiding any trouble that may disrupt the peace of the country, and by promoting close friendship among the inhabitants here. Your organizations which have been established in accordance with law, are not bad, and nobody can prevent you from proceeding with your undertakings; but never utilize your organizations in violating the laws or my orders so that you may not bring about trouble in this country.

It is my desire that before finishing, I shall repeat to you my only wish: may all the sugar centrals in Pampanga, at their own initiative, increase the share of the hacenderos or the planters, so that, in turn, these will increase the wages of the field laborers. The usurious practice of lending money should be stopped now! What interest can a hungry and miserable man, who has nothing to eat, give? (Shouts of “Long live President Quezon!”) May the landowners in Pampanga and in the whole Philippines not wait for our laws to compel them to give your needs in order to maintain a decent existence; instead, may they, of their own accord, show in deeds that they, too, have hearts and that they are ready to help our laborers who are in dire need. (Prolonged applause and shouts of “Long live P resident Quezon!”)

From Messages of the President, Vol. 5, Part I, (1941).

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on government aid to coconut and hemp industries, the coconut oil excise tax, and payment of land and income taxes, February 22, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**GOVERNMENT AID TO COCONUT AND HEMP INDUSTRIES,
THE COCONUT OIL EXCISE TAX, AND PAYMENT
OF LAND AND INCOME TAXES**

[Delivered before the joint convention of coconut and abacá producers
at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Building,
Manila, February 22, 1939]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention:

I am not so sure that you will have valid reasons for congratulating yourselves on the fact that I have sought this opportunity for addressing you. Anything I have to say which you may like to listen to, has been set forth in the written message I sent you. I did not mean to say to either Assemblyman Kalaw or Assemblyman Sabido, who insisted so much on my addressing you, that I was coming to speak on things you want to hear. Whether you like it or not I am going to talk with you frankly.

I shall begin by thanking the Chairman of the Convention for the expressions of goodwill with which he introduced me to you. I wish especially to point that part of his address wherein he said that the Convention reposes its entire confidence in the President of the Philippines, because I am under the impression, if the papers quoted him correctly, that he has introduced me as one of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse. You all know what that means. It seems that he has blamed me. I have not read the whole address. What I know of it has reached me through the papers. But if he has been correctly quoted by the papers, it seems that in the address delivered by the Assemblyman from Batangas—whose interest in coconut planters does not seem to be warranted because his district is not a coconut-producing district and, consequently, he represents only his own direct and personal interests, he being a coconut planter—he has made me largely responsible for the precarious condition of both the coconut and hemp industries.

As regards the excise tax. I promised, it being my solemn duty to prevent it, that no legislation would ever be enacted by the National Assembly which could be construed as a direct or indirect aid to the coconut industry. The Act of Congress which provides for the reimbursement to the Philippine Government of money paid to the United States as coconut oil taxes, stipulates as a condition that such money be not invested directly or indirectly by the Philippine Government in aid of the coconut industry. As President of the Philippines and as the man who, under all the theoretical and practical provisions of Constitutional Law assumes primarily the obligations contracted by the Government, it was and it still is my duty, on receiving such refunds from the United States, to bear in mind the condition provided for by law under which the Philippines may dispose of the same. Had I allowed the money to be disbursed contrary to law, not only would our country have suffered all the harm which would result therefrom, with all that it means to our Government, but worse still—as I think that morals are more important than material values—it would have shown that our Government does not know how to fulfill its obligations or make good its promises. While I am at the head of this Government as President of the Philippines, I will not permit the good will and honor of our country to be discredited. This is the reason why, in spite of myself and in order to keep an obligation contracted by the Government, I have been willing to sacrifice my personal preferences for the sake of the common welfare.

We are living in an age in which the future of civilization is in jeopardy, in which the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—not those mentioned by the Assemblyman from Batangas but those referred to in the prophecy—may be let loose at any moment. We find ourselves in a situation wherein the achievements of human progress and culture might be destroyed during the next ten years. The future of the human race is in jeopardy because of the scant respect of governments for their solemn obligations. I am ever alert over what is transpiring not only in our country but also around us, and I will not permit the Philippines to be on the list of countries which do not know how to honor their obligations. We are laying the foundations for future Philippine nationhood, and one of the most important of these is the ability of our government to keep its obligations. We are not in the same situation as those governments which can afford to disregard their obligations because they have sufficient strength to back up their acts. All the protection we can count upon is respect for the law of those with whom we wish to deal. We must stand ready to show that we know how to respect the rights of others, if we wish others to respect ours.

This is the reason why—although the needs of a province to which I owe everything in my political career are involved—I refused, much to my regret, to allow Assemblyman Lavidas to carry out his ideas of securing funds from the national government to aid the copra industry. As far as my own personal interests are concerned, and fortunately for the coconut oil industry, I own only 3,000 coconut trees. If I owned more I would not have the courage to sponsor the interests of the copra industry. The 3,000 trees referred to, which I bought for P20,000 and which I am willing to sell for P5,000—though nobody wants to pay this price—yield an income of only P150 a year. This is all the personal interest that I have in the copra industry.

You should bear in mind, gentlemen, that Tayabas used to be one of the most prosperous provinces in the Philippines; even the poorest there could afford to pay P10 for a pair of shoes. For years it was impossible to induce the people there to work on provincial road projects; it was necessary to recruit labor from Batangas for this purpose. Even the poorest in Tayabas could afford to send their children to school in Manila, if they only took the pains to bring down a few nuts from their trees. This province, however, is now in abject poverty. My fellow men from Tayabas thought I disregarded their needs and interests altogether and that I have done nothing to relieve their distress. This is seemingly so because, over their needs and my own personal aches, I have to keep up the good name and prestige of our Government.

The copra industry does not need any counsel to plead its cause before the bar of the Philippine Government. Every voter in Tayabas, the province which has consistently voted for me during the last twenty-five or thirty years, and to which I owe everything that I am today, is like an attorney whose voice not only reaches my ears but also moves me deeply, because if it had not been for him I would not be President now. However, it has been impossible for this Government to aid the copra industry.

I have personally worked against that tax. I have, in this connection, personally interviewed the President of the United States and the Congressional leaders. We succeeded in enlisting President Roosevelt's support. President Roosevelt, as you know, transmitted to Congress a message against said tax. It was up to Congress to decide the matter.

The Government has done everything possible for the copra industry and for all the other industries as well. After the tax had been imposed, we were faced with this question: Should we take advantage of it or not? Had I been away from the United States at the time, it would have been extremely difficult to get the money. In the first place, American taxpayers complained about it. The case was taken to court and it reached the Supreme Court of the United States. On my arrival in New York, a delegation that was waiting for me there proposed a compromise; namely, inducing the Philippines to accept a percentage of the funds upon which they would withdraw the case. I told them that if we are entitled to receive the money, we would demand every centavo of it. Otherwise we would not ask for it at all. After the Supreme Court had decided the case, the United States Treasurer decided not to turn the collections over to the Philippine Government. Had I not been in Washington then, it would have been very hard for our Government to get the money. As a matter of fact, the money could not be disbursed while the case was pending, and after so many millions of pesos were collected, the Federal Treasury resented turning the sums over to the Philippine Government. The total amount which had accumulated was eighty million pesos. They proposed to keep the money there till Congress should meet, have a report submitted to said body, and later perhaps ask Congress to legislate on the manner of spending the money.

I know that, with the influence in Congress of those who succeeded in securing the enactment of the tax, they realize only too well what they were up to. They tried to regulate the sums to be disbursed out of the eighty million pesos—that is, to have it paid out little by little. We had not then come to the point of being able to make out a definite program regarding the use of that fund. I had to take the matter up with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Treasury. It was only after I had signed a written promise to the effect that no portion of the money would be disbursed to aid the copra industry, that I was able to have the money turned over to me. You see that not only the Philippine Government but I personally had to enter into a solemn promise under the law.

I cannot allow the smallest portion of the P80,000,000 to be disbursed for the benefit of the copra industry. We have spent it, however, for the good of all. Without it, we never could have built all the needed road projects in Samar, Leyte, Tayabas, Mindoro, and other provinces.

Now allow me to ask the following question: Is there any one here who dares assert that he would rather see enacted a bill which, in my judgment, might be construed by the United States Government as a violation of the law? Gentlemen, it is not Assemblyman Kalaw's opinion on the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, but mine which should be followed. I am responsible. My conscience alone, not that of others, is responsible for whatever I do. This is the reason which impelled me to tell the people of Tayabas, who had come to me to complain about the lack of aid to their industry, to blame no one but me. I am the guilty party; not Lavides. The people of Tayabas have enough common sense to know that I am not an apocalyptic gentleman.

The Philippine Government stands ready to aid the two following industries: the copra and the hemp. The other day I said in the presence of Speaker Yulo and Secretary Alunan that, if necessary, I would have no objection in allowing Negros and the sugar industry to go to the dogs. You all know that both Speaker Yulo and Secretary Alunan have heavy investments in the sugar industry. All I have is 3,000 coconut trees; I have no sugar-cane plantations; neither do I have any share in sugar centrals. I have no need of the votes of either Negros or Pampanga. Even without their votes. I would have been elected President just the same. The votes cast by the sugar-producing provinces are few, as compared with those cast by the hemp and coconut-producing provinces. Without their votes, the outcome of the election would have been but slightly changed. It is plain that, from a political and personal point of view, I can have no more interest in sugar than in hemp and copra. From the standpoint of the nation, it is evident that the hemp and coconut industries are more important than the sugar industry.

The Government is not unmindful of these two industries, though there are those who assert that the sugar barons hold the Government in the hollow of their hand. No one, however, can control this Government. The Government is interested in both the hemp and coconut industries, but so far the most effective way of aiding you has not been found. You are to blame in the first place. You blame us for aiding the sugar industry. But the sugar growers knew how to organize, while you do not. Assemblyman Kalaw has quoted me as being opposed to *blocs*. I have not changed my mind on this score, and when I say that you ought to organize, I have in mind an organization like this. I mean this organization, and not the one in the Assembly. [*Laughter.*] This association should have been formed earlier. You should do more than merely hold conventions. Nothing is accomplished in these conventions except speeches, promises, no more. These conventions only mean expenses on your part. Such disbursements mean a greater burden on the industry, because you have to get them out of the hemp and copra industries.

You must organize yourselves in your own provinces in the same way as the sugar growers have done. The sugar growers have planters' associations, central-owners' associations, and so forth. You ought to have similar organizations. We have been unable to do anything for you because you are not organized and you have not presented the problems confronting you. You should know your own needs, since you are engaged in the industry. In order to force your assemblymen, you do not have to organize. These assemblymen are interested in the needs of their respective districts. They are not going to forget you. But, the first thing you ask from them is the condonation of your land taxes. Do you take this petition seriously? Can there be anything more terrible than this?

Do you mean by this that the salvation of the industry lies in the nonpayment of the required taxes? Gentlemen, land taxes are the most equitable of all taxes. I trust you will not make such a petition again. It implies a terrible psychology. Do you take this matter seriously? When business fails, you don't pay taxes. This implies an awful psychology. It seems as if the impression proposed to be created is that your worst misfortune is to be obliged to pay

taxes. Let me make a bet with you. I am going to pay your taxes, and in exchange you will pay my expenses for luxuries, sports, functions, and others.

Of course, land taxes do not amount to anything. They are very insignificant. But if they are allowed to accumulate for two or three years, even the interest thereon becomes a heavy burden. They can no longer be paid then. For instance, if one has to pay taxes of not more than P400 a year, the sum involved is really small. But why have you been unable to pay your taxes in prosperous years? In my home province even the poorest was able to buy a ten-peso pair of shoes during those years of prosperity. The trouble is that land taxes are the last thing you think of paying.

You should bear in mind that no country can live without land taxes. In spite of this, however, all you think of is how to avoid paying them. A typhoon comes; let land taxes go to the dogs! Prices go down; let land taxes go to the devil! We cannot have stability in our government finances without land taxes. It is plain that for owners of large estates, like my friend Don Ramon Soriano, the taxes are indeed a serious affair. However, aside from the income accruing from copra, he receives money from other sources. One who owns big areas of coconut lands has other sources of income.

All proposals for the condonation of delinquent taxes and nonpayment of the same have to be approved by the Assembly. They have to be approved; otherwise these assemblymen will not get any votes. Such proposals are most popular with the people.

Delinquent land taxes and taxes due may be condoned on condition that present taxes are paid within a certain specified period. [*Applause.*] I reject this applause because it makes me blush. I am not proud of it. This is a sign of weakness. [*Laughter.*]

I should like that we all begin a new life seriously as regards these taxes; that we begin to pay our land taxes, as our primary responsibility towards the Government. If you do not ponder on this matter seriously you had better not think of my reelection as Chief Executive, because if I continue to be President I shall not entertain another petition for the condonation of delinquent taxes. It will be better for you if I be not elected President again!

Let us reeducate the Filipino; for we cannot live thus. It is not the land tax which is a burden to our industries. A change is necessary in the distribution of our products because there are too many middlemen who reduce the cost of production. Last year, for instance, we produced 100,000 tons of copra more than we did in 1937; this is the reason why prices are lower. Copra production has increased enormously and therefore prices have to come down. Land taxes are not to blame for this situation. It is foolish to blame it on taxes because the price of copra rose up after the first year of the payment by us of taxes.

Do not fight your assemblyman; fight me over this question of taxes.

In my opinion, the most important provision of the Joint Preparatory Committee Report is the one which deals on the excise tax. If this portion of the Report be approved, the money will be spent for your good; that is, the hemp and coconut planters. I will then help the hemp and coconut planters get as much funds as possible for their respective provinces. More for the coconut than for the hemp planters. I am in favor of helping the coconut planters more because they pay the taxes. The coconut-producing provinces paid that money and therefore they should have a greater share in the allocation.

Americans are not like the Filipinos. Whenever they are interested in anything, they are on the alert. Their representatives—not their Representatives in Congress but those who represent interests responsible for preventing the reimbursement to the Philippine Government of the said tax—are still watching the acts of the Philippine Government. They are trying to see if the Philippine Government will violate the conditions anent the reimbursement.

The hemp planters succeeded in having a measure passed in the last session of the National Assembly which I approved. I now reiterate my statement made at the time I signed the Act, that the same would not guarantee the rise

in the price of hemp. We cannot possibly control the price of hemp. To be able to control it, we would be compelled to have a huge capital available, which we do not have. You, hemp and coconut planters', forget that the Government has lost a great deal of money in helping you out. The Philippine National Bank lost millions of pesos when it attempted to maintain hemp prices at a high level. The same thing may be said of coconut oil. At least the Government has indirectly spent much money.

I am still ready to carry out the idea of the abacá corporation. Assemblyman Sabido, who has a great faith in that Act, asked for its enactment. I told him that if it should be necessary to make connections in the various markets or to submit intelligible proposals, we would send him to London and other foreign ports. You may rest assured that the Government will do something for the hemp and coconut industries. But I am not to be the savior of these two industries. My Secretary of Finance, Mr. Roxas, is. [*Applause.*] Secretary Roxas and his assistants are making a conscientious study of our country's economic problems, especially those connected with the coconut and hemp industries.

We are deeply interested in extending aid to you, but you must not expect us to do the impossible. You must forget all about tax-delinquency condonations. You all know that the Tayabas students gave a party at the Manila Hotel one night and I suppose each one of them spent P25 and upwards. Not even their parents can afford to spend so much money for a dance or a party. This is the reason why I asked you how you can convince me that you are unable to pay your land taxes, when you can afford to spend so much for a party. In order to be able to be present at this convention, many of you have had to spend more than enough to enable you to pay your taxes. The Government will help you, but you must try to convince us that you are ready to help yourselves.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon before the tenants of Buenavista Estate on the lease of, and plans on, the
Buenavista Estate, February 24, 1939**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before the tenants of Buenavista Estate on the lease of, and plans on, the Buenavista Estate**

[Delivered at the San Ildefonso Elementary School hall, San Ildefonso, Bulacan, February 24, 1939]

LEASE OF, AND PLANS ON, THE BUENAVISTA ESTATE

Countrymen:

I have invited the municipal mayors, councilors, and barrio lieutenants of these two municipalities in order to announce to them the final word of the Government with respect to this hacienda, so that they may, in turn, make the inhabitants of San Ildefonso and San Rafael understand its decision. When I came here for the first time, I informed you that we would hold a plebiscite so that the inhabitants could express their stand as to whether they would like to have the Government intervene in this dispute or not. I promised then that whatever action the two municipalities might decide upon to take would be the one to be done by the Government.

I have received information from different persons to the effect that the two associations here, the Handa Na and Dumating Na, at the behest of Mr. Rustia, are inducing the people not to vote in the plebiscite. Although I am not telling it to you, yet you know already what the motive of such movement is. I have thought of holding a plebiscite because I desire the inhabitants to express their free will on this question; but it has come to my knowledge that the decision of the above associations is this; "Do not vote and watch those who will vote in the plebiscite." Because of this fact, I feel that you will be prevented from the free exercise of your right; hence, I will not proceed any more with the holding of this plebiscite.

You know that the two associations referred to are not the Government of the Philippines; that my power is not based upon the will of any association but upon the will of the people, aside from our Constitution which gives power to the Commonwealth Government to intervene in the troubles here arising from the strained relations between the owners of landed estates and the farmhands or the tenants; and to do such other acts, as it may deem proper, so that all may respect the rights and prerogatives of everyone. I have to discharge that duty which does not emanate from anybody, because it is given to me by popular will.

I am informing you right now that the decision of the Government on this question is to lease the estate and administer it for a few years. Should the Government find it best to buy the estate for subdivision and resale to the inhabitants of these municipalities who may be willing to buy it would do so. If none here is willing, the Government will sell it to others who are interested; but the first to be given the opportunity are those who work on its fields, the tenants who lease their lands, or those who have succeeded their ancestors that originally made clearings on this place. The tenants who hold large tracts of land exceeding 25 hectares will not be given the chance to have the Government sell them land. The lessees holding 200 or 100 hectares under cultivation will not acquire them all; but the amount they have paid and which give them right over such lands as tenant-lessees, will be returned to them by the Government as compensation for the work done by their ancestors in clearing the new land under discussion. Before doing this, the Government will study how much it will pay for the expenses incurred by them; however, to enjoy this right, not more than 25 hectares may be held as a matter of right. Any excess over this area will be sold to those working on the land. The sale will be exclusively in favor of the farmhands, especially those who have been tilling the soil for 20 or 25 years, and payments on the land which they may acquire will not be made burdensome for them. For this they will pay an interest of only 4 per cent a year; however, it is not the Government that will do the collecting but the association to be formed by tenants. This is what we will do and anybody who does not concur with this arrangement can leave the estate. We will not force you to get your land, if you do not so desire, but this is for those who are desirous to acquire landholdings and are eager to work.

What I will tell you which I also ask you to inform Rustia of is this: whether he could promise the people that those who disagree with this proposition can still work on the land. If he says "Yes," then follow him. I am telling you that Rustia can not make this promise because I will not permit him to do so. Moreover, if the Government holds this land, it will be obliged to have you discharge your duties, for we shall not be able to live here nicely if nobody will recognize and respect the laws.

I know that Rustia told you that I had supposedly called him for a conference at Malacañan. I did not call for Rustia; I do not need him. I do not need Rustia in the activities of the Government; he has no land here. He had requested, through Secretary Roxas, that I receive him. So I did, because I always receive anybody who desires to see me. He informed me that he and the people did not understand the proposal or plan of the Government. It seems that his complaint has something to do with the question as to why the tenants would not be given land; he did not mention to me the farm laborers. He asked me why the tenants making payments on their lands or clearing such lands for cultivation purposes will not be given their due. He alleged further that the tenants who have paid for their lands should not have these confiscated from them. I replied to him that it could not have been or it was not what Secretary Roxas had told them. What the latter said was that the land to which they are really entitled will not be taken by the Government, and that the excess of the area they have cleared will be paid for by the Government on the basis of the expenses they have incurred in clearing or preparing the soil. These excess areas will be sold to the farmhands or tenants at present; hence, there will be no holdings of more than 100 or 200 hectares as are allowed now. If we permit this, where will the Government secure land to be distributed afterwards to the many people needing it? Without it, how can the "have nots", for whom the Government is exerting its efforts, be redeemed and made content?

So I told Rustia that he should not be foolish. I have given him leeway because, sometimes, I myself feel unpleasant over the regulations imposed by these landed estates. Hence, I allowed him to go on. But I know and Rustia knows very well, too, that you will not win in this present case. If the Government could only know that you would win in this case, because the said land is not hacienda property but the Government's, then it would exert all efforts to utilize its legal counsel in determining and defending its rights. And if the Government knows that you are the real owner of these lands and not the hacienda, will it permit Rustia to look after your well-being when the Government is duty-bound to serve you and look after your welfare? I have told this in the presence of your governor, and I told Rustia pointblank that he could not deceive me because I am also a lawyer.

I wish you to understand that the intervention of the Government in this question will not in any way curtail your right to proceed with your case or stop it. If you should win your case, whatever amount you have paid would be reimbursed by the Government to you. Whatever happens, the Government will administer this estate and it will not neglect you. Hence, you must hope for what the Government will do and not what anybody else will.

Countrymen, please listen to me. I am not misleading you. I beseech you to repose your confidence in me. I have nothing to gain from this case. You, barrio lieutenants and councilors, hear me: your duty is to help the Government, and I will be forced to dismiss anyone among you who will be recreant to his duty.

The farce in which you have taken part against the Government is ended. What is the matter? Have we an uprising here? Let us stop the formation here of associations, which you follow instead of the Government when the latter is the real authority to which every good citizen should owe his loyalty and reverence.

It is not a hidden fact to you that the interest of the Government in intervening in this estate is to look after your own good. The Government will open barrio roads; construct sewer systems; dig artesian wells; build schoolhouses; lay out irrigation systems; and construct other facilities that will be for your benefit. It is indeed sad to think that behind these good intentions, you still plan to boycott the proposed plebiscite. Is that the dictate of prudence? You have spent much in court proceedings. You have also exerted much energy and sacrifice without any practical benefit in return. But you should bear in mind that all that we would do here will be for your well-being arising from the desire on our part to help you out of your predicament.

If your desire is to possess the land without paying for it, that can not be done. You know that that will never do, and I will not permit it.

I am planning to return to this municipality after a year and a half. If by then there could be any man who would see me to say that what we have done here has prejudiced the interests of the people and their economic welfare, I would return to Manila no longer a President. I would resign right away. Or I could make reimbursements to compensate for the damages you might have suffered. Under the present plans of the Government, it is not you who will suffer but those who live today on your contribution. The ones to be prejudiced are those who would like to manage your rightful share and live at your expense.

The fieldworkers, I assure you, will not suffer any damage. This is our first opportunity to impose an interest of 4 per cent only upon an association for what the Government may loan to it; in turn you will have to pay the association an interest of 6 per cent for whatever sum you may borrow from it. Who in the Philippines can give this very low rate of interest on loans? You will be the first ones to enjoy this boon. If I did not believe that this association could give you facilities and extend its help to you, I would not exert any effort to execute the plans of the Government for Buenavista.

I wish to inform you that when I went to Baler, my hometown, I advised the people to form a cooperative association, even though they have no landed estate there, because I do not want that you, the people here, would be the only ones to reap the benefit of paying only an interest of 6 per cent to the money which might be loaned to you.

I will not be telling this to you if I do not believe in it. Indeed, I believe in this kind of association. Anyone among you who does not desire to purchase land must sell his leaseholding to the Government in order to register or enter it in the books of the cooperative association. Do you think that I will impair the plan or scheme of the Government which will help you? No, I really can not let my conscience accuse me, in the last analysis, of having failed to discharge my paramount duty to you. I can not, therefore, permit this great undertaking of the Government in your behalf, fieldworkers of this hacienda, to fail.

Sometime next month, the Government will send here its representatives who will organize your cooperative association. Their first job will be to investigate who the actual tenants and fieldworkers are. Such tenants as would like to continue under the new setup should inform the representatives of the Government of their intention to continue as such tenants or "inquilinos." They will not be allowed to get more than 25 hectares. They should, however, inform the estate administrator of the legitimate expenses incurred by them in improving such areas in excess of 25 hectares.

Those who need land will be provided with it, but they shall register themselves as members of the cooperative association. Those who do not need it may say so. We are not forcing anybody on this matter. To those who do not wish to work on this hacienda, we urge them to go to Mindanao, where they will be given their respective lots to work on.

Municipal mayors and barrio lieutenants, you are the officers of these towns; you are my representatives in these political subdivisions. It is your duty to help the Government; if not, you can tender your resignations right now.

Lastly, I want to say that we will not conduct a plebiscite anymore; that it is high time to suppress untoward acts; and that what we need here is a nice way of living and a peaceful existence. The Government will administer your affairs here.

From Messages of the President, Vol. 5, Part I (1941), pp. 46-52.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Address of President Quezon on Government Recognition of Scientific Research in the Philippines

**Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Government Recognition of Scientific Research in the Philippines**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, Manila, March 2, 1939]

Gentlemen:

For some time now, I have been interested in meeting the few men in the Philippines who are really devoted to scientific research. I know the little attention and help that the Government of the Philippines had given you in the past. Most of those who are engaged in research work have been occupying sundry positions in the service; and, in our bureaucratic government, attention has naturally been focused on the occupants of higher positions, regardless of whether their work is less important than that of their subordinates. However, inasmuch as all good governments are bureaucratic in form, I have to stand by it. As you know, I am a revolutionist by nature, and my Government is a revolutionary bureaucratic government; therefore, I want you to realize that any importance this Government gives to a man in the service is measured not by his rank in the office but by the importance of the service which he renders. So it makes no difference how you rate in the official hierarchy. The Government of the Commonwealth will give full recognition to your work, no matter how lowly your official position may be. I want to give every encouragement to our scientists who do research work.

One of our great weaknesses is our inability to appreciate the true value of things. Only a few of us have the ambition to accomplish important things, and I consider those few persons as the most valuable elements not only in the Government but also in our community. And I wish to tell them that, as far as I can, I am always ready to give them every opportunity and encouragement in the work to which they have devoted their life—a work which may appear sentimental now, but which, in the end, may leave lasting benefits to humanity.

Gentlemen, I want you to understand that you can always approach me whenever you have something new and important to present for the consideration of the Government. Do not hesitate to come and offer what you have. The Government is composed of men who are conscious of the fact that what we need in the Philippines today is scientific research, scientific achievements. As Chairman of the National Development Company, Secretary Manuel Roxas is in a position to give you the chance that you need, and I know he will do it and he will give his time and particular attention to you.

Dr. Bacon: Once more, I wish to thank you for coming to help us in this pressing need of our country. You have given us inspiration, and I am glad that, as proved by those who are present here, you carry with you the thanks of this Government and my own.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Radio Speech of President Quezon on cooperating with the Government in carrying out its program of Social Justice, March 11, 1939

**Radio Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On cooperating with the Government in carrying out its program of Social Justice**

[Broadcast over Stations KZRM and KZIB, Manila, March 11, 1939]

**COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT ITS PROGRAM
OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

A minimum wage for the workingman, to be economically sound and also fair to capital, can only be justified if the service rendered is actually worth the minimum wage fixed.

In order to carry out the social justice program, there must be, first of all, peace and order.

MY COUNTRYMEN:

Industrial conflicts and agrarian troubles which have arisen during the last few months have reached a point where I deem it necessary that I address the people of the Philippines and particularly the inhabitants of the provinces of Central Luzon, stating, in as plain and clear a language as I can command, the policy of the Government in reference to these industrial and agrarian conflicts in order that no one may have any doubt as to how the Government shall act in every case that may confront it.

That there is need of improving the working and living conditions of the wage-earner in the Philippines, be he a factory or a farm laborer, can hardly be disputed; that in many instances injustices and abuses are being committed against the workingman and the peasant, is an undeniable fact; that the income of the laborer is too low to permit a substantial improvement of his living conditions is generally admitted. To correct these injustices and abuses and to ameliorate the lot of the masses are the prime concern of my administration. But as I have repeatedly stated on every opportune occasion, it is impossible to accomplish these objectives in a short period of time, because we are dealing with a complex and complicated problem which is the result of traditional practices in the treatment of labor by capitalists and landowners on the one hand, and on the other, the lack of the habit of continued and sustained work among the workingmen. Moreover, production methods are generally unscientific and inefficient, particularly in agriculture.

A legislation fixing a minimum wage is easy enough for the National Assembly to enact, but unless such a law takes into consideration the effects that it will have upon existing industries and their continued progress, as well as upon the creation and development of new ones, it might result in greater hardships for the laborers themselves, for it might cause the closing of factories already in operation and thus increase the number of the unemployed. Besides, a minimum wage for the workingman, to be economically sound and also fair to capital, can only be justified if the service rendered is actually worth the minimum wage fixed.

The strict enforcement of the present Tenancy Law alone will not automatically solve our agrarian problems. Certainly not in so far as the situation of the tenant or farm laborer himself is concerned. With the enforcement of the Tenancy Law, it will also be necessary to provide credit facilities, not only to landowners, but to the tenants as well. In addition, new methods of farming must be adopted to increase production and insure the maximum benefits

that the land can yield. Moreover, the tenant must learn, and have an opportunity, to work throughout the year; for generally no one can earn an income that will be sufficient to properly support himself and his family all the year around if he works only for a few months.

I am mentioning but a few illustrations of the complexity of the problem that we have at hand so that those who expect to be benefited by the policy of social justice which we have proclaimed may understand fully why they have to have patience and should not expect immediate results. Even if the Government were to take every foot of arable land in the Philippines and distribute it without compensation among the tenants, these tenants would find in the end that their situation had not been materially and permanently improved, and in some cases they would perhaps find that they were in a worse condition, unless they were at the same time granted better credit facilities and they themselves worked harder, more consistently and intelligently than they are doing at present. Of course, the Government cannot take the lands from their present owners and give them away to the tenants; for, under the Constitution, no person can be deprived of his property except for a public purpose and with just compensation. The confiscation of land by the Government is, therefore, out of the question in the Philippines. Indeed, it is my inescapable duty to protect property rights and I shall use all the powers of the Government in the discharge of this duty. This should be made clear to the tenants so that they may give no credence to those who tell them that the Government has the power to confiscate privately-owned land and to distribute it among those who are working it. Nor should these tenants believe that should they become landowners, the mere fact that they are no longer tenants but landowners, will greatly alleviate their present condition. They will have, I repeat, to learn to work more efficiently during the whole year and use methods that will make the land yield much more than at present.

Again I want to reassure the masses of my determination to do justice to them and to improve their lot. The National Assembly, I am certain, will enact the required legislation to carry out the policy of social justice. Such laws as experience has demonstrated are necessary to improve or supplement existing labor and tenancy legislation will be enacted. Greater credit facilities will be given to industry and agriculture; the establishment of new industries and the use of modern methods in agriculture will be fostered, and labor and tenancy laws will be strictly enforced.

But in order to carry out the social justice program, there must be, first of all, peace and order. And so I am determined to prevent and suppress all kinds of violence and lawlessness and all attempts to sabotage the program of social improvement approved by the Government. In this determination, the whole Government is united. This is evidenced by the promptness with which the National Assembly has granted my request to appropriate five hundred thousand pesos to be spent at my discretion for purposes of law enforcement. I am calling, therefore, upon every law-abiding citizen to cooperate with the Government in its efforts to maintain peace and order and to carry out the social justice program. I advise everybody to refrain from carrying on any movement through propaganda or otherwise that might result in arousing the people to commit acts of violence or lawlessness, or even to make threats to do acts of violence or lawlessness. I warn those labor leaders who are engaged in this kind of activities that their continuance in this pernicious agitation is done at their own risk. I know that there are so-called leaders who have engaged in the provocation of labor troubles as a means of livelihood and I know who they are; and I want to tell them that, if the Government has heretofore tolerated their activities, it is because they have been adroit enough to walk on the borderline of legality without transcending it. The consequences of their activities now, however, are such as to warrant the Government in the exercise of its police power henceforth to deal with them drastically and with the severity which the circumstances demand and the law authorizes. As for the misguided people who follow these false leaders with the full knowledge of the consequences of their acts, I want to tell them that I am laying a deadline beyond which any man or group of men may go with the certainty that they will be met by the forces of the Government.

I bespeak the cooperation of the labor leaders who are honestly interested in the welfare of the laboring class and are not seeking their own selfish ends. They should counsel patience to their followers and to use only legal means to secure redress for their grievances. The strike is, of course, lawful, but there would seem to be no occasion for employing it now in the Philippines. The Department of Labor and the Court of Industrial Relations have been created precisely to afford labor the right, and the sure and effective means of securing justice from capital. The labor leaders who would resort to strikes rather than to these instrumentalities created by the Government will not have my sympathy. On the contrary, and so that they may be advised of what they will have to face, I want to tell them that if a strike is declared by any labor organization before the laborers have presented their grievances to the Department of Labor, or before the Department of Labor has had time to act thereon or to submit the matter to the

Court of Industrial Relations, the Government will protect by force, if necessary, any individual or organization that may offer to do the work of the strikers. And if the strike concerns those public services that immediately affect the well-being of the people, should the situation demand it, the Government itself will assume the responsibility of providing the men needed to take the place of the strikers. I will particularly take precautionary measures against general or sympathy strikes which may menace peace and order and the public welfare.

With regard to the controversy between tenants and landowners, the practice of forcibly taking crops, either by a tenant or a landowner, without the consent of the other party, must be stopped. If necessary, I shall use force to prevent it in the future. The gathering of armed men will be considered as a threat to commit violence, and any such groups will be dispersed by force in case of resistance or refusal to obey the order of authorized government agents.

If any tenant should have grievances because of the violation of the Tenancy Law, or because he has otherwise been deprived by the landlord of his just participation in the crop, such tenant should at once go to the nearest public official, be he a *teniente del barrio*, councilor, mayor or governor, fiscal or public defender of the province, to submit his complaint. These officials are directed to hear these complaints and to render to the tenant the help that may be necessary forthwith to bring the case before the courts. From my conversations with tenants during the trips that I have been making through the provinces, I am convinced that some of the agrarian conflicts which have arisen are due to the fact that these poor tenants, lacking the means to present their case before the courts, have felt that the only remedy to their grievances was to take the law into their hands. For this reason, I command every official of the Government and request public-spirited citizens to pay immediate attention to the complaints of these tenants and give them assistance so that they may be convinced that by appealing to the constituted authorities and through legal means, they can secure justice and redress for their grievances. Failure on the part of these officials to give prompt assistance to the tenants will be considered a grave dereliction of duty and dealt with accordingly.

Once more I urge the people to be patient and to abide by the law. Once more I urge them to have faith in the ability of their Government to right the wrongs which they suffer, to redress their grievances and to administer justice promptly and fairly.

From Messages of the President, Vol. 5, Part I (1941), pp. 55-60.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Government policy regarding Industrial and Agrarian Conflicts, March 11, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**GOVERNMENT POLICY REGARDING INDUSTRIAL AND
AGRARIAN CONFLICTS**

[Broadcast over Stations KZRM and KZIB, Manila, Saturday, 8:00
p. m., March 11, 1939]

My Countrymen:

Industrial conflicts and agrarian troubles which have arisen during the last few months have reached a point where I deem it necessary that I address the people of the Philippines, particularly the inhabitants of the provinces of Central Luzon, stating, in as plain and clear a language as I can command, the policy of the Government in reference to these industrial and agrarian conflicts in order that no one may have any doubt as to how the Government shall act in every case that may confront it.

That there is need of improving the working and living conditions of the wage-earner in the Philippines, be he a factory or a farm laborer, can hardly be disputed; that in many instances injustices and abuses are being committed against the workingman and the peasant, is an undeniable fact; that the income of the laborer is too low to permit a substantial improvement of his living conditions is generally admitted. To correct these injustices and abuses and to ameliorate the lot of the masses are the prime concern of my administration. But as I have repeatedly stated on every opportune occasion, it is impossible to accomplish these objectives in a short period of time, because we are dealing with a complex and complicated problem which is the result of traditional practices in the treatment of labor by capitalists and landowners on the one hand, and the lack of the habit of continued and sustained work among the workingmen on the other. Moreover, production methods are generally unscientific and inefficient, particularly in agriculture.

A legislation fixing a minimum wage is easy enough for the National Assembly to enact, but unless such a law takes into consideration the effects that it will have upon existing industries and their continued progress, as well as upon the creation and development of new ones, it might result in greater hardships for the laborers themselves, for it might cause the closing of factories already in operation and thus increase the number of the unemployed. Besides, a minimum wage for the workingman, to be economically sound and also fair to capital, can only be justified if the service rendered is actually worth the minimum wage fixed.

The strict enforcement of the present Tenancy Law alone will not automatically solve our agrarian problems. Certainly not in so far as the situation of the tenant or farm laborer himself is concerned. With the enforcement of the Tenancy Law, it will also be necessary to provide credit facilities, not only to landowners, but to the tenants as well. In addition, new methods of farming must be adopted to increase production and insure the maximum benefits that the land can yield. Moreover, the tenant must learn, and have an opportunity, to work throughout the year; for generally no one can earn an income that will be sufficient to properly support himself and his family all the year around if he works only for a few months.

I am mentioning but a few illustrations of the complexity of the problem that we have at hand so that those who expect to be benefited by the policy of social justice which we have proclaimed may understand fully why they should have patience and not expect immediate results. Even if the Government were to take every foot of arable land in the Philippines and distribute it without compensation among the tenants, these tenants would find in the end that their situation had not been materially and permanently improved, and in some cases they would perhaps find that they were in a worse condition, unless they were at the same time granted better credit facilities and they themselves worked harder, more consistently and intelligently than they are doing at present. Of course, the Government cannot take the lands from their present owners and give them away to the tenants; for, under the Constitution, no person can be deprived of his property except for a public purpose and with just compensation. The confiscation of land by the Government is, therefore, out of the question in the Philippines. Indeed, it is my inescapable duty to protect property rights and I shall use all the powers of the Government in the discharge of this duty. This should be made clear to the tenants so that they may not give credence to those who tell them that the Government has the power to confiscate privately-owned land and to distribute it among those who are working it. Nor should these tenants believe that should they become landowners, the mere fact that they are no longer tenants but landowners, will greatly alleviate their present condition. They will have, I repeat, to learn to work more efficiently during the whole year and use methods that will make the land yield much more than at present.

Again I want to reassure the masses of my determination to do justice to them and to improve their lot. The National Assembly, I am certain, will enact the required legislation to carry out the policy of social justice. Such laws as experience has demonstrated are necessary to improve or supplement existing labor and tenancy legislation will be enacted. Greater credit facilities will be given to industry and agriculture; the establishment of new industries and the use of modern methods in agriculture will be fostered, and labor and tenancy laws will be strictly enforced.

But in order to carry out the social justice program, there must be, first of all, peace and order. And so I am determined to prevent and suppress all kinds of violence and lawlessness and all attempts to sabotage the program of social improvement approved by the Government. In this determination, the whole Government is united. This is evidenced by the promptness with which the National Assembly has granted my request to appropriate five hundred thousand pesos to be spent at my discretion for purposes of law enforcement. I am calling, therefore, upon every law-abiding citizen to cooperate with the Government in its efforts to maintain peace and order and to carry out the social justice program. I advise everybody to refrain from carrying on any movement through propaganda or otherwise that might result in arousing the people to commit acts of violence and lawlessness, or even to make threats to do acts of violence or lawlessness. I warn those labor leaders who are engaged in this kind of activities that their continuance in this pernicious agitation is done at their own risk. I know that there are so-called labor leaders who have engaged in the provocation of labor troubles as a means of livelihood, and I know who they are; and I want to tell them that if the Government has heretofore tolerated their activities it is because they have been adroit enough to walk on the borderline of legality without transcending it. The consequences of their activities now, however, are such as to warrant the Government in the exercise of its police power henceforth to deal with them drastically and with the severity which the circumstances demand and the law authorizes. As for the misguided people who follow these false leaders with the full knowledge of the consequences of their acts, I want to tell them that I am laying a deadline beyond which any man or group of men may go with the certainty that they will be met by the forces of the Government.

I bespeak the coöperation of the labor leaders who are honestly interested in the welfare of the laboring class and are not seeking their own selfish ends. They should counsel patience to their followers and to use only legal means to secure redress for their grievances. The strike is, of course, lawful, but there would seem to be no occasion for employing it now in the Philippines. The Department of Labor and the Court of Industrial Relations have been created precisely to afford labor the right, and the sure and effective means of securing justice from capital. The labor leaders who would resort to strikes rather than to these instrumentalities created by the Government will not have my sympathy. On the contrary, and so that they may be advised of what they will have to face. I want to tell them that if a strike is declared by any labor organization before the laborers have presented their grievances to the Department of Labor, or before the Department of Labor has had time to act thereon or to submit the matter to the Court of Industrial Relations, the Government will protect by force, if necessary, any individual or organization that may offer to do the work of the strikers. And if the strike concerns those public services that immediately affect the well-being of the people, should the situation demand it, the Government itself will assume the responsibility of

providing the men needed to take the place of the strikers. I will particularly take precautionary measures against general or sympathy strikes which may menace peace and order and the public welfare.

With regard to the controversy between tenants and landowners, the practice of forcibly taking crops, either by a tenant or a landowner, without the consent of the other party, must be stopped. It necessary, I shall use force to prevent it in the future. The gathering of armed men will be considered as a threat to commit violence, and any such groups will be dispersed by force in case of resistance or refusal to obey the order of authorized government agents.

If any tenant should have grievances because of the violation of the Tenancy Law, or because he has otherwise been deprived by the landlord of his just participation in the crop, such he a *teniente del barrio*, councilor, mayor or governor, fiscal or public defender of the province, to submit his complaint. These officials are directed to hear these complaints and to render to the tenant the help that may be necessary forthwith to bring the case before the courts. From my conversations with tenants during the trips that I have been making through the provinces, I am convinced that some of the agrarian conflicts which have arisen are due to the fact that these poor tenants, lacking the means to present their case before the courts, have felt that the only remedy to their grievances was to take the law into their hands. For this reason, I command every official of the Government and request public-spirited citizens to pay immediate attention to the complaints of these tenants and give them assistance so that they may be convinced that by appealing to the constituted authorities and through legal means, they can secure justice and redress for their grievances. Failure on the part of these officials to give prompt assistance to the tenants will be considered a grave dereliction of duty and dealt with accordingly.

Once more I urge the people to be patient and to abide by the law. Once more I urge them to have faith in the ability of their Government to right the wrongs which they suffer, to redress their grievances and to administer justice promptly and fairly.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Ideal Partnership of Landowners and Tenants, March 30, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Ideal Partnership of Landowners and Tenants**

[Delivered at a gathering of his tenants in Arayat, Pampanga, on March 30, 1939]

My Friends:

The word *kasama*, which is the term in Tagalog for tenant, means partner; and this term, which has come to us from our ancestors, properly defines the relationship between the landowners and their tenants in our country.

In fact and in law, they are partners; for the landowner puts in his capital in the form of land, while the tenant works the land; and the two divide the produce of the land. In the old days the tenant was not only a partner, but he and his family were also considered and treated as members of the family of the landowner.

This was a most humane and beneficial relationship. However, in the course of time, avarice and greed transformed the *kasama* into the victim of the landlord. The *kasama* was cheated of the product of his labor through various devices, of which the most common is charging usurious rates on the debts he contracted.

The Philippine Legislature tried by legislation to remedy this intolerable, cruel, and inhuman situation. But, although many of the old and bad practices have gradually disappeared, abuses are still being committed against the *kasama*, and these abuses have caused serious troubles in many instances.

We have owned this land for several years now, but we have not done anything about it. One of the reasons why my wife and I bought this farm is my desire to carry into actual practice my idea of the treatment that landowners should accord their tenants. I have been consistently preaching social justice, but I believe that it would be better if I myself set concrete examples.

We are going to be real partners. We shall divide the produce of this land in equal parts, and if you will do your work diligently and conscientiously, we shall reciprocate each other accordingly in the future.

We will give you working animals free; take good care of them as if you had bought them. We will not deliver the carabaos now, lest you sell or lose them. You shall pay for these animals in small yearly installments; but those of you who show industry in working the land and who take excellent care of the carabaos will receive back their money.

But one thing that we shall do for you now is to cancel your old debts. Those who were indebted to the former owners of this land may, henceforth, consider their debts as paid, although in the purchase of this land your debts were transferred to us.

Whatever you may owe us in the future, such as advances for your food, clothing, and other necessities in life, shall be lent to you without interest. The rice that you take, you will return in kind; and if you pay the money loans in rice, we will credit you at the current market price of rice.

However, we will not lend you a single centavo for betting in cockfights, for we will not allow you to gamble.

Each family shall have one-half hectare of land to plant vegetables or bananas on, and to use for raising chickens or hogs. We shall also introduce improvements on the land, so that it may yield better crops without any additional cost to you.

If you have any complaint, present it to Mrs. Quezon or to me. And if you do not get justice from us, take us to the courts for, like all other citizens, we are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts if we commit any injustice or if we violate the laws.

Work hard and well. Consider the land that you work on as your own. And as long as you comply with your part of the contract, you may rest assured of its use as long as you desire it.

Here you will be free to be a communist, socialist, or a Popular Frontman. Although I am a Nationalist, yet you need not belong to my party or vote for our candidates. The fact that you belong to another political party will not be sufficient cause for me to send you away. Nor shall I hold it against you if you have any complaint to make.

I shall do the best I can for you. I will not only give you everything that you are entitled to under our laws, but if you are a hard worker, I shall also give you extra compensation.

But, remember, I shall do nothing for the man who does not work. Nobody has the right to live at the expense of others. Any one who spends his time scratching his head or taking care of his fighting rooster, will have to find some other place to stay idle in. As long as you do your part, I shall do mine.

Let us be real partners. Let us bear in mind that what is good for you is also good for me. And what is good for me is good for you, too. With this understanding, we shall not only be partners but also friends.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on National Policies, Nationalism, and Economic Security, April 4, 1939

SPEECH
OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**NATIONAL POLICIES, NATIONALISM, AND ECONOMIC
SECURITY**

[Delivered at the 29th Commencement Exercises of the University of
the Philippines, U. P. Campus, April 4, 1939]

Mr. High Commissioner:

The distinction which the University of the Philippines has conferred upon you is not only a recognition of your academic attainments and statesmanship, but also an expression of the high esteem and regard in which you are held by the Government and the people of the Philippines. It gives me great pleasure to extend to you my warmest congratulations.

President Bocobo, Members of the Board of Regents and of the Faculty, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Graduating Classes:

Never before could it have been said as truly as it can be said nowadays that every country is in the world and has to live with the world. The radio and the aeroplane have made all nations neighbors, and finance, commerce, and trade have made them interdependent in their economic life.

The prevailing economic system has resulted in the concentration of wealth in the hands of small minorities at the cost of the well-being, and with the consequent impoverishment, of the great masses of the people. This has created discontent everywhere and forced even the most conservative governments to revolutionize their systems of taxation and to direct and control or, at least, to regulate production and distribution in industry and agriculture, so as to effect a wider diffusion or redistribution of wealth and to provide protection to labor against exploitation by capital.

The framers of our Constitution, aware of the evils which the uncontrolled development of the capitalistic system has brought about in other countries, have clothed our new government with the necessary power to save our people from those evils. The Constitution clearly specifies the legal limitations to which private property might be subjected in the interest of the common weal. Unlike the Constitution of the United States, after which it is patterned, our Constitution sets a maximum limit to the area of public land that may be acquired or leased by individuals or corporations, and expressly confers on the National Assembly the power to determine by law, subject to existing rights, the size of private agricultural land which any person or corporation may acquire and hold, and to expropriate lands to be subdivided into small lots and conveyed at cost to individuals. The Constitution also grants the Government ample powers to regulate the relations between capital and labor and to protect the working class, especially women and children, against the greed and abuses of capital. It is clearly seen that the framers of the Constitution did not forget that private property is not an end in itself, but only a means to insure to man his material subsistence and to afford him the blessings of a higher moral and intellectual life.

These constitutional grants of power were deemed essential to enable the Government to carry out the injunction in the Constitution to promote social justice in order to insure the well-being and economic security of all the people. Pursuant to this mandate, the National Assembly has already enacted laws regulating the relations between capital

and labor. It has also authorized the Government to expropriate lands to be sold in small lots at cost to their occupants.

But social justice cannot be achieved by constitutional precepts or legislative enactments alone. We must radically revise our concept of private property by emphasizing the social responsibilities of wealth. We must indoctrinate every citizen with the ethical principle that he is his brother's keeper. We must arouse and foster the individual's responsibility to the community of which he is a part. These are no vain words. We may forget these duties only at the cost of our peace and tranquility and, in the end, even of our national liberty.

While it cannot be rightly said that the poverty of the masses in the Philippines is due to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a privileged class—for there are really no great fortunes here, and such poverty as exists is due mainly to the fact that the resources of the country are as yet not properly developed—it should be our concern to prevent an economic development that will mean fabulous riches for a select few and poverty and misery for the bulk of our population. Moreover, the injustices and abuses which are now committed against the working-man must at once be remedied by insuring to him fair treatment, proper living and working conditions, and a just compensation for his labor.

This is, however, but one phase of our problem to provide economic security for all our people. We must increase the wealth of the nation by multiplying its production. And to accomplish this, we must revise our system of education and emphasize the training of our youth for vocational efficiency enjoined by the Constitution.

University or college education should not be the ambition of every young man and young woman. Only those intellectually gifted should have that ambition. This is particularly applicable to the children of poor parents. While poverty is not in itself sufficient reason for denying anyone the prosecution of higher studies, yet only those poor students with extraordinary talent and will power should be encouraged to follow an academic career. The Government itself might provide scholarship for these deserving students. But a person with only an ordinary ability will find it very difficult to succeed in his academic profession: and if he has to depend on it for a living, disillusionment and despair may be the only reward awaiting him at the end of many years of hard struggle to obtain a diploma from a college or university. The average student, especially if he is poor, ought to be satisfied with a vocational, as distinguished from a professional career, if he wants an education that will be useful to him and to the community in which he lives. And let me say that he need not feel humiliated or ashamed of his lot; for the true worth of a man is measured, not by a diploma, but by his proficiency in his chosen line of work.

This is an idea that must be popularized among our people: that an academic education is not, in itself, of value to anyone who receives it, unless he is capable of making a practical and socially beneficial use of it. Those who must depend upon their toil for their livelihood will be less exposed to becoming parasites and a charge on the community, if they pursue such courses of study as will most likely insure to them a steady work and gainful occupation.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not minimizing the value and importance of academic education. At no time in the history of civilization has it been so necessary, as at present, for a people to have their own technological leadership in order to survive the economic struggle for existence. This is the reason why I have taken steps to place this State University in a position to produce such leadership. The proposed transfer of the University to a more appropriate place, where academic spirit may be better fostered and the student body may be more closely supervised, not only in their studies, but also in their daily lives; the contemplated employment of foreigners as professors and instructors, so as to obtain the best available assistance in the training of our youth in the arts and sciences; the plan to improve the library, laboratories, and other equipment of the university, as well as the other reforms which, with my approval, the Board of Regents is now considering—all these measures are plain evidence that I believe in the need of intellectual leadership and that I look upon this university to provide the nation with that leadership.

Incidentally, let me say that the objections to the bringing of foreign professors which, I am informed, have been raised by some persons are neither sound nor convincing and will not deter us from carrying out the plan. Such objections are inspired by a purely Chauvinistic nationalism. It is no reflection upon our people that, for the time

being, we should have to enlist the collaboration of foreign educators. The University of the Philippines is still very young, and it can hardly be expected to have formed already a competent teaching staff of its own in every branch of human knowledge. Even much older universities readily employ foreigners as professors whenever needed—why should we hesitate to do the same? We cannot afford to sacrifice the vital interests of our people for a mistaken national pride. There are no prouder people on earth than the Japanese, and yet they did not hesitate to acknowledge the need of foreign assistance in matters of education, and they did secure this assistance for many years, with the result that they have been able to accelerate their cultural and material progress, and can now stand on a level with the most advanced nations of the world.

In the field of economic enterprise, it would not be conducive to our interests to adopt a policy completely eliminating the intervention of foreign capital, business men and executives. Of course, it would be unwise to open our country to an unrestrained exploitation by foreigners. Our Constitution provides effective limitations for the protection of our nationals, especially in relation to our natural resources. But there are many activities which Filipinos cannot as yet finance or undertake, either for lack of capital or because we are unacquainted with the particular industries involved. We should permit and even encourage foreigners and foreign capital to enter these fields. As soon as Filipinos have developed sufficient technological knowledge and facilities to engage in them, it will be time to take action to prevent more foreigners from coming in competition with our own nationals.

This brings me to the subject of nationalism. Nationalism, as an emotional attachment and conscious allegiance to one's country rather than to a dynasty, a monarch or a ruler, is of comparatively recent development. Its seed was planted at the time of the Renaissance, and it has reached its extreme expression in the totalitarian states.

Rightly conceived, felt and practiced, nationalism is a tremendous force for good. It strengthens and solidifies a nation. Community interest is made active. It preserves the best traditions of the past and adds zest to the ambition of enlarging the inheritance of the people. It is, therefore, a dynamic urge for continuous self-improvement. In time, it enriches the sum total of mankind's cultural, moral, and material possessions through the individual and characteristic contribution of each people.

So long as the nationalistic sentiment is not fostered to the point where a people forgets that it forms a part of the human family; that the good of mankind should be the ultimate aim of all and every nation; and that conflicting national interests are only temporary and that there is always a just formula for adjusting them, nationalism is a noble, elevating, and most beneficial sentiment.

Our Constitution is inspired by a spirit of sound nationalism, and we should endeavor properly to comprehend this spirit and to adhere to it in the formulation of our national policies.

It is significant that at the very beginning our Constitution declares that the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, and adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as a part of the law of our nation. This is not a mere reiteration of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, so loudly proclaimed and so often disregarded; nor is it a passing or expedient adherence to a political tenet due to the present inability of our people to sustain an armed conflict. In addition to the principle enunciated in the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the Constitution has made international law part of the law of the land. This is a positive injunction against any violation of the accepted principles of international law by our Government.

This constitutional declaration implies that our people recognize that no nation has the right to resort to war in order to carry out its national policies; that every state is a member of the family of nations; that each nation has rights that must be respected by the others; that superiority of force is no justification for adopting and carrying out a national policy that may be prejudicial to the liberties and interests of other peoples; and that right and justice alone—never force—should determine and decide the conflicts that may arise between nations. In other words, it means that we are willing to submit to arbitration or to an international court for adjudication of any and all controversies that may arise between the Philippines and other countries.

Such is the spirit of nationalism that underlies our Constitution and our conduct towards the world should be inspired by that spirit.

The progress and development of international law coincided with the period when the sentiment of nationalism first came into being. For a time, it looked as if the right of every people to their own national life, free from outside interference or aggression, were to be forever recognized and respected. The principle of self-determination was the term chosen to designate this right. Unfortunately, however, the advance of international law, as the enforceable rule of conduct among nations, has not only been halted but also received a serious setback, as shown by the ominous events which have taken place during the last few years, and by others which even now, while I am talking to you, are filling the hearts of men with the fear of another holocaust. Wars are being waged without any previous declaration of hostilities; territories belonging to one country are ruthlessly invaded by another; nations are conquered, and the maps of Europe and of Asia are being changed from day to day. Self-determination is no longer valid except for those who have the power to back it with force.

I shall not attempt to pass judgment upon the conduct of any nation, not only because I may not properly do so, but also because it is not as easy as it seems to pronounce a verdict that will, in every respect, be just and fair, if we are to consider and weigh carefully the immediate, the latent, as well as the remote causes and circumstances which have brought about the events to which I am adverting. I shall only say in passing that, without fully accepting as valid the theory that the interpretation of history must be found in some economic fact, the root of all the current troubles that face humanity today is, in my opinion, the unjust and inhuman way in which the capitalistic system has been allowed to operate both in the fields of national and international relationships.

I have already mentioned the terrible evils which have caused maladjustments in the economy of different nations. In relation to the world economy, we find that certain essential raw materials are practically the monopoly of a few fortunate nations, and, although their use has become prime necessities of modern life, the unfortunate countries that do not possess them may not procure these raw materials with the same facility or at the same cost as those nations possessing them. Again, international trade is being artificially directed and controlled in the interest of each nation, with little regard to the immediate effect it may have upon the lives of millions of human beings, and still less to the ultimate consequences upon the particular nation concerned, the export trade of which must sooner or later suffer adversely. It is my firm belief that until a new order is established whereby the wealth of the nation is shared by all classes of society, and the common man is given a chance to live as a human being, and whereby the every nation is permitted to have an equal access to essential raw materials, and world trade allowed to take its natural course, international covenants to insure peace will not be worth the paper on which they are written.

Is it practicable to bring about the establishment of this new order? One would be a visionary who would unhesitatingly answer in the affirmative, while he who would answer in the negative would have lost all faith in man's wisdom and in the fundamental goodness of the human heart. It is certain, however, that it will not be the present generation that will see such order established. So the practical question that confronts us is: What should we do to insure our national safety against external aggression?

So long as there are nations that believe, and back their faith with force, that their national interests as conceived by them are paramount to the interests of any other nation and even to the interest of mankind, our only recourse is to build up our own force to defend ourselves against aggression. This is the reason why the Constitution asserts that the defense of the State is a prime duty of government, and that in the fulfillment of this duty all citizens may be required by law to render personal military or civil service.

We have enacted a law providing for our national defense and the plans are being carried out with military precision. Quite a large sum, considering the present condition of our finances, is being spent every year in the execution of that plan. But the Government alone cannot provide an effective defense of our fatherland. Every Filipino citizen must be willing to make the supreme sacrifice when the call to arms is sounded.

The schools, colleges, and universities, public and private, must constantly instill in the minds and hearts of their students their duty to defend the nation in time of war, and to be useful and law-abiding citizens in time of peace. We must imbue our whole citizenry with a spirit of heroic patriotism. For a country as small and with such limited wealth as the Philippines, ordinary patriotism is not enough to insure its security. Heroic patriotism is necessary—a patriotism that is devotion, loyalty, and courage that rises to the heights of self-sacrifice. Such kind of patriotism can only be felt by a people whose love of country is not based merely on a natural attachment to the land of their birth, but on the fact that their country gives them freedom, contentment, and economic security. They must be able to feel

and realize that the country is theirs because they share in its spiritual as well as material possessions. The man whose life means only hardships and misery, who is abused and maltreated by his own people, who is unjustly deprived of the fruits of his labor, can hardly be expected to be willing to die in defense of those who abuse and mistreat him and who rob him of his means of subsistence as a human being. Wars can no longer be won by mercenary armies. They can be won only by well disciplined and trained armies, steeped in patriotic virtues. Rome, which dominated the world so long as its mighty legions were composed of Roman citizens, became an easy victim of the barbarians of the North when she had to depend upon hired soldiers for her defense. Thus, the program of social justice is a necessary complement to the national defense plan.

I now turn to the question of our future conduct towards the nations of the world. To America we owe a special debt of gratitude. To her altruism and generosity, we shall be indebted for our national independence. She has made us heir to her ideals of liberty and democracy and the beneficiaries of her civilization and culture. It should be our constant endeavor to preserve undiminished this invaluable inheritance as well as our friendly and cultural relations with her after we shall have become independent. Toward the rest of the world, we shall follow a course that will insure their amity and cooperation, without in any way involving ourselves in their affairs. We should adopt a most liberal policy in our foreign commerce. This is the policy demanded by our best interests. We shall thereby make friends and, being primarily an agricultural country, we shall in any case profit by it. In our foreign policy, let our motto be: *Justice and friendship for all!*

Members of the Graduating Classes: You are called upon to play an important role in the execution of the national policies which I have enunciated. It is a priceless opportunity which, as patriotic Filipinos, you can neither renounce nor evade. If you do not delude yourselves into the belief that with your diploma you have acquired all the knowledge that you need; if, on the contrary, you consider your university training merely as an urge to improve your learning the better to equip yourselves for your chosen professions and to discharge your social responsibilities you can be, and I hope you will be, in time, intellectual leaders, creators of new wealth, apostles of the social justice program, and true patriots, seeking for the nation the paths of progress, cultural advancement, and national security.

I desire to congratulate you on your academic achievements and to wish you Godspeed and success in all your future undertakings.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Government Aid to Ilocos Norte, April 26, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Government Aid to Ilocos Norte**

[Delivered at the Public Plaza in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, April 26, 1939]

Mr. Governor, Mayor of Laoag, My Dear Friends:

I am profoundly thankful for this very warm reception which you have accorded me. I have listened with very close attention to the speech, the eloquent speech, of your governor. And as a Filipino, as well as the head of our nation, I am happy and proud to learn the conditions prevailing in this province, after hearing him speak.

The governor is right when he said that, of all the Ilocano provinces, Ilocos Norte is the only province which is entirely self-sufficient. If in every province of the Philippines the people were to work and live as the people of Ilocos Norte work and live, I could be certain that the Philippines would be one of the greatest nations on this side of the world. Work, and more work, is the solution of all human problems, and it offers permanent safety and security for all people.

An enviable situation in this province is that among its people there are neither the very rich nor the very poor! Millionaires are not the persons who can serve a community better. To pile up millions in the hands of a few should not be the aim of any government. It is the welfare of the average man and woman which should be the concern of an enlightened government. So long as the average citizen lives a human existence, all the millionaires can disappear. /Laughter./

You, the people of Ilocos Norte, are entitled to have every aid that the National Government can give you, for you are not among those who wish others to help them but who fail to help themselves. On the contrary, you help yourselves first and then you wait for the help of this Government. I want to say to you now that anything that the National Government can do for you will be done, as long as it is within my power to do so. /Applause./ This is not the promise of a politician. /Laughter./ This is the promise of a man who holds a public office today, but who will soon be out of it. It is the promise of a man who realizes that you deserve what you are asking for, and who feels the obligation of giving what you have asked because you deserve it. /Applause./

I have not visited Ilocos Norte for many years. This is my first visit since my inauguration as President of the Commonwealth. I did not come here for some time because, to tell the truth, I was tremendously shocked by the crime that had been committed when the late representative Nalundasan was murdered. Murders are not unusual things; they happen everywhere. And I hoped and prayed that the murderer would not go unpunished. I even expected that the people of the province themselves would make every effort to have the author of the crime detected and punished. But when time passed without any indication that the author of that crime would be caught, I lost the desire to come to this province. Yet, after all these years and on second thought, I felt that I was perhaps indicting all the people of this province, which act would be both unfair and unjust of me to do, And so here I am.

I am glad that I have come here. I have come accompanied by one of the greatest men that we have in this country. He is the product of one of the Ilocos provinces. You know the person whom I am referring to. He is the Floor Leader of the National Assembly, the Honorable Quintin Paredes. /Applause./ I have come accompanied by him, so that in case your petitions will need the action of the National Assembly, he, with the assemblymen from this province, may help me get for you what you want from the Government.

I will now answer concretely the petitions of your governor. If the project of irrigating the farm lands of the towns south of Laoag is feasible, according to the Bureau of Public Works, you can rest assured that you will have them irrigated. /Applause./ The program for the development of Mindanao will be extended as to include the development

of the Cagayan Valley. /Applause./ Those are two very important petitions, and you have heard my answer to them. Another thing that I will do is to instruct the Secretary of Public Works and Communications to spend more money for your roads, so that you may have concrete roads very soon. /Applause./

I cannot answer your petition regarding the establishment of a public normal school here, because I do not know the present program of the Bureau of Education in this respect, and I do not want to promise you anything before knowing what could be done. But I am going to tell you something that you will like. If you do not have a normal school here, you will have one of the regional vocational schools that are being maintained by the National Government. /Applause./ Now, I am making these promises with the understanding that these gentlemen—your assemblymen and Floor Leader Paredes—will work in the Assembly for the enactment of laws which I may ask so as to permit me to carry out these promises. If they do not do so, you can harm them and I will assume the responsibility. /Laughter./

The governor did not mention the petition which some of the municipal councils of this province have presented to me. That is the petition seeking the amendment of the act authorizing the municipal councils to impose a tax for the maintenance of intermediate schools in their respective municipalities. I want you to listen to what I will say about it. You know that up to now, the municipalities have not been able to maintain the primary schools without the help of the National Government. The number of boys and girls in the Philippines who cannot go to school for lack of buildings and teachers is very big. The National Government has adopted the policy of assuming the whole responsibility for the construction of the primary school buildings and the payment of the salaries of all the teachers for the primary schools, but it is leaving to the municipalities the responsibility of maintaining the intermediate schools.

What are you going to do with the intermediate schools? If the National Government maintains exclusive, rather upon its own exclusive responsibility, the primary schools, it will not be able to help you maintain the intermediate schools. Therefore, if you have funds to maintain all the intermediate schools, you do not need to impose the school tax. But if you do not have the money, are you going to close the opportunity of the children who have already gone through primary instruction, to go to the intermediate school simply because you do not want to impose the school tax? If your reason for wishing the law repealed is based on your belief that you can still get an appropriation from the National Assembly to help you maintain the intermediate schools, then I want to tell you right now that you are wrong about it, because it is impossible for the National Government to maintain both the primary and the intermediate schools. There is no sufficient money for both schools. Everywhere the responsibility for primary instruction, which includes the intermediate school, belongs to the municipal government. The National Government is doing more than what it should do in assuming the responsibility for the maintenance of the primary schools. Do not forget that the Insular Treasury is now receiving an income that does not come from the Philippines. That income is derived from the excise tax on coconut oil collected in the United States. That income is, and will not be dependable, because we will lose it as soon as we attain our independence. Therefore, we have to plan our national economy in such a way that when that income disappears we can still maintain the services which we have started now.

The National Assembly will consider an appropriation act which, if approved by it, will do away with this law you are asking us to repeal. We propose the imposition of a registration fee that should be paid by everybody who has some dealings with the Government or who is engaged in a private enterprise. This registration fee will not be paid by any man or woman who is without work. No person need pay this fee unless he has some form of income derived either from his properties or from his work. This money, which would be used exclusively for the maintenance of schools, will be distributed among the provinces in proportion to the population of every province and every municipality. Since the province of Ilocos Norte is thickly populated, and the town of Laoag is one of the largest towns north of Manila, the people of Ilocos Norte would be benefited by that act if it would be approved.

I notice that you do not applaud me as I talk of these taxes. I have been an admirer of the Ilocano provinces, especially of Ilocos Norte; but I am afraid I shall be disappointed with you. /Laughter./ I want you to be just as willing to applaud me when I tell you that the National Government will help you as when I tell you that you must pay a tax. How can you expect the National Government to help you unless we first collect taxes? Money does not come from heaven. You know also that the money which we will spend for asphaltting your roads, irrigating your

farms, and developing the Cagayan Valley, does not come from my own pocket. Therefore, it must come from somewhere—from the pocket of the average citizen.

I believe that I have talked too much already. I am now quite tired and, therefore, I shall close my speech. I want to say that I am very proud of your province. /Applause./ And I am very proud of your governor. /Applause./ I am not making a speech for his reelection, remember that! /Laughter./ But let me tell you this: I have visited almost every province of the Philippines since I became President of the Commonwealth, but I have never heard a speech that was more logical, rational, and reasonable, as well as eloquent, than the speech delivered by Governor Ablan. His knowledge of the conditions of this province and his suggestions on how the National Government could help you, prove beyond question that he is interested in his job and is performing his job marvelously.

I am not surprised at him, however. Only this noon I was telling the persons who were with me aboard the Casiana that the province of Ilocos Norte has always elected good governors. When I first came here, I noticed the interest of your governors in the welfare of the people in the barrios, and their interest always appealed to me because my heart is always with the people of the barrios. Now, that does not mean that my heart is not with you, who live here in Laoag; it is also with you, but not very much. /Laughter./ The man in the barrio lives a hard life; he does not enjoy the benefits of civilization which we, who live in the towns, enjoy. He needs the attention, the care, and the help of the provincial, municipal, as well as the national officials. /Applause./ That is why, as I said, I have been impressed by the attention that the governors of Ilocos Norte have been giving to the people who are living on the farm, and by their desire to help them.

By the way, who do you know had sent Cayetano Ligot to Hawaii as Commissioner of Labor? It was I, and I did it because I had been impressed by his work when I once visited Ilocos Norte. Of course, I received several complaints against him. They said that he was very much influenced by the sugar barons in Hawaii. Well, I do not know whether that was true or not. If that be true, it simply shows that it is very dangerous to be near the rich people, because even a good man may become contaminated. /Applause./

Really, this province has had an unusual choice in its governors; Hernando, Samonte, Espiritu, Lagasca—they all had always impressed me. Did you have any other governor that I did not mention? /"Mandac!" shouted the public./ Well, I cannot mention him very well, because he save us trouble. But, really, I am very much pleased with your officials here and also with your representatives who have all been good.

In conclusion, be assured that in whatever way I can be of service to you, you can always count on me. /Applause./ Once more, thanks for your generous reception, and thanks also for the songs of those magnificent girls. /Applause./

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon on Tenancy Relations between Landlords and Tenants, April 30, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

TENANCY RELATIONS BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

[Delivered before the landowners of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, on
April 30, 1939]

Countrymen :

I have asked Mr. Avelino, the new Secretary of Labor, to come with me, so that you may know him and he may hear what you have to say today. What I am going to tell you now concerns the landowners, and this afternoon I shall speak on matters pertaining to laborers or tenants.

You may have already heard perhaps that I own land here in Nueva Ecija, which is at present being managed by Mr. Isip of Cabiao, justice of the peace of San Fernando, Pampanga. From that land I do not know of any returns yet that have gone into my pockets, in spite of the fact that the price I paid for it plus some incidental expenses, taken together, already amount to P60,000 by this time. Had I not bought that land and instead, simply loaned the money at 10 per cent interest per annum, it would possibly amount to P120,000 within a period of only ten years. By investing it in riceland, I doubt if that sum could make an earning of 10 per cent per year. I also do not know if the land is capable of turning out a good crop, although I have been told that it is rich and may possibly produce a good harvest. Somehow I have not yet derived any real profit from my land, for when we harvested the crop last year, my share was only 450 cavanese out of a total yield of 900 cavanese of palay. I sold my share at P2.50 per cavan, thereby netting a total of P1,125, which was all I realized from my capital of P60,000. My investment, therefore, did not even net me a profit of 10 per cent.

You may perhaps wish to know also why I invested my money in riceland despite the many agrarian conflicts nowadays. The main reason is that I wish to know actually, not from mere hearsay, the true causes of the present trouble between tenants and landlords. By this method, I might be able to gather sufficient experience in tenancy matters and I could later voice my opinion as to what proper means should be adopted by a landlord in his dealings with his tenants in order that amicability between them could be maintained at all times. Had I not done this, you could have reasons to question my competence to give advice to this party and that group for not having acquainted myself very well with actual happenings on the land. It is natural that, for a person to say something or give advice to his fellow men on any matter, he must first have sufficient experience in, or know much about, the subject he talks about. In pursuance of my desire, I have adopted the policy of basing my dealings with my tenants on the Rice Tenancy Law, for by so doing I may learn much concerning matters affecting actual relations between landlords and tenants.

Landowners of course ought to draw reasonable profits from their capital. But it is never praiseworthy for anyone to have his capital of only P500 amount to P25,000 in just five years and to squander it after he has suddenly become rich.

This squandering of money reminds me of a Jew and a Scotchman who were arrested and accused of drunkenness by a policeman. When brought to court, the judge asked the policeman as to what made him believe that the two were drunk. The policeman forthwith replied "Your Honor, I saw the Scotchman drawing money out of his pockets

time and again which he continuously threw on the street. His companion, the Jew, kept on picking the said money thrown by the Scotchman, and giving it again and again to him. Because of these unusual acts I was convinced that the two were drunk, so I arrested and accused them of drunkenness.”

“But how were you able to determine their drunkenness?” asked the judge.

“Your Honor,” replied the policeman, “thrift is customary among the Scotch; they would not even allow a single cent to slip off their hands. On the other hand, it is a custom among Jews to accumulate in a safe any sum of money which reaches their hands; they care so much for it that they would not even allow it to be fanned by the wind. But when I arrested these two men, the Scotchman, who repeatedly filled his hand with money, kept throwing it away; meanwhile the Jew who kept picking it up, instead of keeping the money for himself, handed it back time and again to the Scotchman. If they were not drunk, absolutely neither of them would act the way he did, which was the very reverse of his habits.”

Now, my friends, I am neither a Scotchman nor a Jew; more so, I am neither drunk nor out of my wits to throw my money away. I bought that land in order that my tenants and I would benefit from it. Precisely, all of us should gain from it. I also own land in Baler from which I realize no profit; nevertheless, I duly pay the corresponding land tax. Being the son of a poor man, I know the plight of a farmer. I have been able to accumulate what little property I now possess through my own industry. I know the province of Nueva Ecija very well because every time I went to Baler, my hometown. I always passed through this place. Besides Baler was, in the old days, within the geographical boundary of Nueva Ecija; hence, I can also claim to be a native of this region. I had thought of buying riceland because man’s first necessity is rice. If a person possesses rice and fish, he can live although he may not have money. I have a fishpond in Sexmoan, Pampanga, and whenever I desire to eat fish, I simply ask my men to catch it for me. Thus my property consists solely of rice and fish. It should not, therefore, surprise anyone that, despite the present conflicts between farmers and landowners. I bought the land of Relucio. I bought it principally for my family and myself: secondly, as I have already stated before, for the purpose of learning the true causes of agrarian conditions.

If you wish to have the Tenancy Law amended, it can be done, although I am of the belief that it is, in its present form, good enough. Your trouble here in connection with the ejection of tenants has various causes. A tenant, however, should not be expelled from the land as long as he fulfills his farm job. Sometimes landowners oust their farmers or quarrel with them simply because the latter do not belong to their own political parties. On party matters, a landowner should not interfere with his tenants; instead, he should give them freedom to become sakdalistas, socialists, or communists. Also after finishing their day’s work on the field, he should allow them to attend the meetings of the various associations with which they are respectively affiliated.

The poor should be given the opportunity to hold Government positions. Most of the rich, however, are against this, hence only a few among the poor or those possessing no property are able to occupy government positions. As a proof of this, only the well-to-do or the landowners are able to become assemblymen, except two whom I know personally: Felipe Jose and Jose Robles. Of these two only one—Felipe Jose still remains in the service of the Government. Robles won in the elections only once; he has never been reelected. You, landowners, should not hate your tenants because of their desire to become sakdalistas, socialists, or communists. It is not proper for you to discharge them from their work just for that matter alone.

The same thing is happening in the Province of Pampanga, wherein the trouble between farmers and landowners is not due to tenancy relations but to differences in politics. Governor Baluyut is a party man, one of the leaders of the Nacionalista Party. On the other hand, Mr. Pedro Abad Santos is a leader of the Socialist Party. Time and again they have fought each other in the elections; that is why one often censures the other. They have even gone to the limit of dragging the conflict between landowners and tenants into their controversy. The situation gets worse if we take note that both men have their own newspapers which they employ as weapons in promoting their own interests and those of their respective parties. The same thing is happening in several provinces where politics has become the major cause of agrarian conflicts.

The landowners should not oust their tenants for causes which are political in nature. As long as a farmer fulfills his job on the land, a landowner has no right to drive him away. But at anytime that a tenant resorts to abuse by grabbing all the harvest, burning the crop, or carting it away without the knowledge of his landlord—acts which are against the law—he should be driven away. It is only in such cases that the farmer should be ousted, and the Government would side with the landowner. But as long as a farmer commits no wrong and does not neglect his job, a landowner has no right to drive him away. Should he do so, the Government would protect the farmer. Whenever a landlord asks his tenants to do for him something not covered by their tenancy contract, or requires them to act as servants in his house, it is incumbent upon him to pay them accordingly. In their dealings with their landlord, farmers are not supposed to do any work for him other than that pertaining to the land; and whenever they are required to perform any work not embraced in their tenancy relations, they should be duly rewarded for such service.

We, Filipinos, do not know how to persevere; unlike the Chinese, we have no patience. I have a Chinese valet who is on the alert at all times for anything I may tell him to do for me. Do you know why I preferred to hire a Chinese? It is because I know that Filipinos cannot endure to serve in the manner that this Chinese does things for me. However, I still find occasion to scold him at times and sometimes he answers back to explain his side. I have related this to you so that in case your tenants protest to you for having asked them do things ther than those covered by your tenancy contract you landowners, should deliberate first and not wreak vengeance on them by driving them away from the land they work on.

If you cannot agree with your farmers or have an understanding with them regarding crop shares or tenancy contracts, you should take your differences to the proper authorities who would decide them for your mutual benefit. A landowner must give his tenant a share proportionate to the hiter's labor. If a farmer takes away all the harvest without the knowledge of the landowner, the latter must file a complaint in court against the former, so that he may be duly punished for the crime he committed. Remember that, as President of the Philippines, I shall never tolerate anyone to commit acts against the law. Hence, you should not unjustifiedly oust your tenants. It would be better if you should make them understand that, as long as it is their desire to till the land, you would allow them to, because it will be to your benefit if they continue working your land. By so doing, the farmers would highly value the land they cultivate, and they would exert all efforts to make it produce a good crop. They would take care of the land as if it were their own. You should divide the crop proportionately among yourselves. If these be done, undoubtedly the land which these farmers cultivate will be so greatly improved as to produce good crops.

According to Dr. Ramos, president of the association of landowners, the tenants are granted loans by the landlords at 10 per cent interest per year, and payment are collected after the harvest. That is within the law. He also states that sometimes tenants refuse to pay their debts to landowners, claiming that they have to pay their other creditors first. In such a case, if I were their landowner, I would all the more encourage my tenants to get loans from other sources and tell them afterwards not to pay the said debts and allow themselves to be taken to court. The people who grant loans to farmers who are not their tenants would then learn a lesson and never again extend loans to them. By this means also, we shall see that tenants would hesitate to borrow money from other sources and simply content themselves with any amount they could borrow from the landlords under whom they work. The tenants may also be advised to borrow money from others at an interest of as high as 15 per cent per annum so they would readily be granted loans, and to refuse to pay them when the time for payment comes so that cases would be filed against them in court.

You, landlords, should not collect anymore the interest you are supposed to charge your tenants, especially if the money they borrow is to be spent for their subsistence. It is too insignificant a sum for you. If a tenant borrows a cavan of palay from you, collect only one cavan in payment thereof. If he borrows P3, collect no more than that amount in the settlement of the debt. You should not charge them any interest. Stop the practices of the so-called *talinduwa* and *takipan*, and do not collect three cavan for every two cavan of palay loaned to your tenants. What I wish to convey to you is that only an amount equivalent to the sum loaned to the tenant should be deducted from his share of the crop in payment of his debt, or only the exact amount of what he borrowed from you should be paid by him. If such practices are adopted, undoubtedly, you will be going together under the best of relations. We must be together under the best of terms, and stop this trouble in order that we may live in peace. What would other nations say if they learn that, just for little things, we cannot agree on matters which we can amicably settle? It is my duty to maintain peace, and I shall without fail punish anyone of you who would create trouble.

Dr. Ramos has also made mention here of what is being done in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, wherein he said that the plan of the Government is seemingly bound to fail. I wish you to know that the Government will exercise full authority with respect to its plan in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

The leaders who, for their personal benefit, exploit the laborers will not fare long enough as the true motives in their hearts will soon be exposed. I also wish to remind you that any conflict between landlords and tenants should be immediately taken to the Department of Labor or the Court of Industrial Relations for settlement. These two branches of the Government have been organized principally for the solution of all questions arising between landowners and laborers. Hence, all cases of a like nature should be brought to the attention of the corresponding authorities in order to avoid any trouble between landlords and tenants.

One more thing: You must teach your tenants such methods as would increase the harvest, so that during the planting season they will not neglect the land they work.

A tenant works the land from which he has to obtain his subsistence for twelve months for only a period of from four to five months out of the entire year. Thus he may be idle for about eight months. In view of this, it is imperative that he look for other sources of livelihood in order that he may live, and you should help him earn something by other means.

You, landlords, should organize cooperative associations to enable you to advance loans to your tenants at low rates of interest. The Government will help you organize such cooperatives and it will loan you money at only 1 per cent interest per annum, which you may in turn grant to your tenants at 6 per cent interest per year. Secretary Roxas is at present studying all angles relative to the organization of cooperatives, and some day he will come here to explain things to you, so that you could be well prepared to organize such associations.

Some leaders induce the tenants to abandon their work. Whenever a tenant follows the advice of such leaders, he should be discharged outright because a tenant who does not want to work and desires pleasure only, ought not to be given land to work on. But one who wishes to work not only should not be driven away but should also be granted loans. We shall study the Tenancy Law with a view to inserting amendments into it in conformity with the demands of present-day tenancy practices, so that conflict will no longer arise between landlords and tenants. I thank you.

The following conversation took place soon after President Quezon concluded his speech:

Dr. Ramos.—Landowners, Sir, desire that they be authorized to charge an interest of 10 per cent per annum on loans to their tenants, which is allowed under the Tenancy Law, because what is happening is that, having obtained the money, the tenants refuse to pay—nor are they even willing to give corresponding interest—reasoning that they have to pay some other creditors first.

The President.—The interest you wish to charge them is too much; that 10 per cent is usurious. You had better not charge them any interest, especially when the money they borrow is mainly for the purchase of their subsistence during the four or five months that they work the land.

Landowners should grant loans to their tenants, so you had better organize cooperative associations so as to extend loans to your tenants at low rates of interest, and not 10 per cent. If you carry out your desire, the crop share of the tenant would not even be sufficient to pay for what they owe you. I repeat, you had better not charge them any interest.

Landowners should be principally concerned with their duty to advise their tenants to take good care of the land they are tilling in order that it will turn out a good harvest. Tenants who are lazy and who do not want to work should be discharged; it is never right for a man to live by the toils of others.

It is necessary that we teach our tenants the good ways of right living and make them interested in their means of livelihood, so that they may not suffer from poverty. I wish to repeat here what I once told my own tenants: “A

landlord and a tenant are friends, and they ought to help each other in improving their means of livelihood. A tenant should not borrow money at 15 per cent interest or more so as to gamble or seek pleasure with it. Tenants should never possess this habit, for they can rely on nothing else to pay their debts with except their share of the crop which, at times, may not even be sufficient for their subsistence. It is necessary, therefore, that they be watched over in order that they may learn how to lead a prosperous life.

Mr. Santos.—As regards cooperatives, Sir, how shall we proceed in their organization?

The President.—Be prepared to organize a cooperative association and I will ask Secretary Roxas to come over here to explain things to you, as he is well-versed in the matter. The organization of such associations will be to the great benefit of landlords, as they will be charged only 4 per cent interest per annum on money which the Government will loan them. We are ready to loan money direct to tenants also [*cheers*], for which their prospective crop shares may be accepted as security. So you had better organize coöperatives now, because if you do not do so, the Government will not grant you loans.

The tenant should not be required anymore to share in the payment of irrigation expenses; only the landowner should pay for them. It is not right for a landowner to require his tenant to pay for irrigation water, because this inures solely to the benefit of the landlord. It is not proper to charge the tenant even half of the price paid for the purpose. [*Applause and cheers.*]

Dr. Ramos.—Sir, what about the various expenses for the erection and maintenance of embankments which help a great deal in improving the harvest?

The President.—Those improvements also mean an increase in gain. I wish to remind you that landlords should not make a profit of more than 10 per cent per annum on their land because the soil does not decay; instead, it turns out profits continuously. The price of the land is not decreased either, because it produces crops. I also wish to draw your attention to the fact that in 1900 a cavan of rice cost only P1.50, and the total value of the land under cultivation in Nueva Ecija at that time was around P20,000,000. At present, however, it is about P40, 000, 000, so I believe that landlords here should content themselves with a share of 10 per cent of the produce of the land.

Mr. Ramos.—Sir, can we not attach 15 per cent of the tenants' share of the harvest in case they fail to pay their debts, as sometimes they claim that they have other obligations outside, when the truth is that they gamble with the money in cockpits?

The President.—You should allow your tenants a little freedom in getting their share, because it rightfully belongs to them. And if you wish them not to bet in cockfights, you should work together for the closing of all cockpits.

By the way, what about the Naric, my friends? Does it do something for you here?

A Townfolk.—The Naric, Sir, does some good here, especially for us—the poor. It helps us a lot by fixing the price of palay in Nueva Ecija. For instance, this year the Naric fixed the price at P2.50 per cavan. We now wish that the Naric be requested to fix the price of palay at P3 per cavan so we—the tenants—can sell our palay at that price.

The President.—That cannot be done. The Naric has no right to raise the price of palay.

A Townfolk.—But, Sir, the Naric is run by the Government.

The President.—No; the Naric is a corporation and it is not run by the Government.

A Townfolk.—Sir, for an illustration, consider what happened to me. A rice dealer and I could not agree on the price of palay and we went to the public defender. The public defender advised us that the price of palay is P2.60 per cavan, while we insisted that it was P2.50 according to the Naric.

The President.—How did it come about?

A Townfolk.—That is what we cannot understand Sir.

The President.—Anyway, I am thankful that the Naric can continue in operation. I happened to inquire about it because assemblymen from the South are planning to put it out of business reasoning that it does not conform with interests and that it fixes the price of rice at high levels. Assemblymen from the South do not produce rice but they cultivate sugar cane instead, so they are apt to feel any slight rise in the price of rice. But when the price of sugar rises we—rice planters of Luzon—do not say anything.

My friends, I wish to bid you goodbye now. This afternoon I will speak before the tenants.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Quezon on improvement of the living condition of the farmers and tenancy relations,
April 30, 1939**

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITION OF THE
FARMERS AND TENANCY RELATIONS**

[Delivered before a gathering of farm tenants at Cabanatuan, Nueva
Ecija, on April 30, 1939]

Friends:

I have come to Cabanatuan today in response to an invitation of the landowners who wish me to hear what they have to say at their gathering. And in compliance with Mr. Feleo's request to avail myself of an opportunity to hear you, I chose this day so that I may hear both you and the landowners.

This morning I talked to the landowners with all sincerity and frankness. The president of their association, who was present, heard all I said. That is why I know that he agrees with everything I told them. However, let it be known to you that it is my desire to see the landowners follow most of the suggestions I gave them, in the meantime that no laws embracing such suggestions have been enacted. It is true that they are at perfect liberty to follow or not those suggestions according to what their good judgment dictates. I am not vested with power to force anyone to do anything not provided by law. But I have told them that it is their duty to observe faithfully those matters which I pointed to them as express provisions of the law, or else I shall be constrained to use my legal powers in compelling them to do so.

What I wish to tell you now is this: Those acts of oppression which, as Mr. Feleo alleges, were committed by landowners in the past, even if true, must be forgotten; moreover, I believe that not all landowners were guilty of the practice. Let us turn our attention to an analysis of the future, and let the past alone. From now on, should like all landowners, not only here but also in other provinces where tenancy conditions are similar to those found here, to abide by the law and, if possible, introduce additional measures that would further improve those conditions so that tile relations between landowners and tenants would become more harmonious and lasting, and greater benefits would accrue to everyone. On the other hand, you should not expect the Commonwealth Government to enact legislation directed at the curtailment of the rights of the landowners; our Government is powerless to do that. That which accrues to the landowner is, by nature, his. Our Government is bound to protect it just as much as you are morally obliged to recognize it. In the same manner, the Government cannot allow, and will never allow, landowners to deny their tenants of their rights.

But what is most important is that you should refrain from using force in an effort to protect your rights; as, at the instant that force is used commendable though its purpose may be, such rights lose their intrinsic merits in the process. For that reason, you should not take possession of the produce of the land without the owners' consent; you should inform them of whatever you intend to do. If anyone feels himself unjustly treated, he should present his complaint to the municipal officials. You may rest assured that I shall not allow any landowner to grab a single grain of rice from your rightful share.

At present, we have a Tenancy Law, and only that which is provided in this law could be put in force by tenants and landowners in their tenancy relations. I have no authority to force anyone to do what is in excess or beyond the limits of the law so long as no amendments to that effect are made.

Regarding your petition to be allowed to borrow money at low rates of interest from the Government or from its banks, I wish to say that I shall do my best to have it approved by the officials concerned. However, there are two things I want you to bear in mind: First, I cannot, of my own accord, grant it to you. It is necessary that legislation to that effect be enacted by the National Assembly. Secondly, granting that a law on that matter has already been enacted, still its enforcement will not be felt at once. Delay is to be expected, inasmuch as the money to be loaned to you belongs to the Government.

In view of the foregoing, a study should be made of the means by which farmers could pay the money that might be loaned to them. You may, though without any land of your own, negotiate a loan by putting up your future crops as security. However, in this case, the bank which offers you the loan should be assured of the crop from which the payment is to be secured. But unless you stop your habit of unreasonably taking away the harvest, no banking institution will ever dare to extend credit to you. If you want to find banks ready to give you loans, endeavor not to touch that portion of the crop assigned to pay the loan. As it is now, you have nothing as guarantee except your word of honor. Show not in words alone, but in deeds also, that your speech carries weight, in order that your request may be granted.

Still that is not everything that you should remember. Because it is your share of the harvest that will serve as security for your debt, it is necessary that you cultivate the land with considerable interest. If, on the contrary, you neglect your farm work or burn the crop the moment you become angry with the landowner, what else would you have to rely upon to guarantee your debt in the bank?

If you are desirous of obtaining loans from banks, show them that you are good citizens, peaceful and law-abiding. For that matter, the first thing that we should do, therefore, is obey the law—improve our ways of living.

I wish to tell you one thing: A farmer in this country will not prosper, be he granted what is due him for his labor, unless he learns to save money. The thing that impoverishes us Filipinos, rich and poor alike, is extravagance. The difference lies only in the ways the rich and the poor squander their money. The rich pamper themselves with luxuries, such as automobiles, beautiful homes, grand pastimes, etc.; while the poor indulge themselves in vices, such as gambling, cockfighting, and town fiestas. What has the future to offer a person who has the propensity of squandering money when he has but little to squander? Among us Filipinos, it is a common sight to see people who live on debts alone. And the expression so current among us is, *Bahala na!* (Let things take care of themselves.) There can be no improvement in our living conditions unless we learn how to save.

Another thing: Granting that a tenant gets all he is entitled to, still, owing to the fact that he works only during the planting season, his share of the harvest cannot be expected to be sufficient to cover his needs for an entire year. If a tenant who works for only three or four months on the field would not make efforts to secure other work after the harvest, but simply depend upon his share of the crop, he would soon find himself without sufficient means for his subsistence; much more if he has both a wife and children. It is impossible for him to support himself and his family for one whole year with the share which the landowner gives him for his four or five months' toil.

There are twelve months in a year; it is necessary that we work throughout the twelve months. God will not provide us with subsistence unless we work. Even if God grants us land, unless we ourselves break the soil and cultivate it, still our living conditions will not improve. San Isidro Labrador (patron saint of labor) is preoccupied with so much business in heaven that he finds no time to attend to us here on earth. A miracle is a product of activity. It remains for us, therefore, to keep ourselves working here on earth. You should not hope that your being afforded with easy facilities by the law would improve your living conditions even if you do not exert efforts. On the other hand, the landowner or the Government must come also to your aid in order that you would have work during the year. Only when this is given a tenant that hope for his economic security is assured.

I deem this time opportune to make an important observation to both landowners and tenants regarding their tenancy relations. The word "tenancy" has a connotation which you should know. It implies partnership between the landowner and his tenant. It is not proper that either should consider himself the superior of the other. Both are partners; that is, partners in a single enterprise. The landowner offers his land, as well as his share of the expenses in cultivation. The farmer contributes his labor and his own share of the expenses. That which brings gain to one, brings gain to the other. If this truism is observed by both landowner and tenant while they strive to promote each other's welfare like real partners, we still may see the end of all tenancy troubles not only here in Nueva Ecija, but also in all other places in the Philippines.

A landowner ought to realize the fact that if no one would work on his land, nothing would be raised therefrom, as crop production is made possible through the industry of the tenant only. He ought to keep in mind, therefore, that the tenant has a right to profit by his labor and no one has a right to deprive him of a single grain due to him from the harvest.

Likewise, the tenant must know that nothing can be grown by him where he has no land to cultivate. He, therefore, must remember that the landowner is entitled to the profits of the money he has invested in the land and should desist from aiming at a share greater than what is due his labor. It is his duty to take cognizance of the fact that the landlord should have his rightful share of the produce of his land.

Things that result in their mutual benefit should be the main concern of both tenant and landowner. They should help each other and treat each other fairly; as without land or labor both are bound to suffer losses. Tenants should remember that hunger would be more devastating among them than among landowners, who are comparatively few in number, if our agricultural lands would be left uncultivated. And it is possible that the latter may obtain by purchase everything they need, even if their land would yield no harvest for two planting seasons. On the other hand, tenants would have nothing to eat if they fail to work. They cannot strike, as a strike would only aggravate their situation and not the landowners. Consequently, you should cease thinking about resorting to force in your desire to get what is yours. During my incumbency, I shall employ the forces of the Government to prevent the repetition of those acts which, as Mr. Feleo alleges, have already been committed. That which is really your share is yours to take and hold. The days of the *talindura* are now over; the *takipan* is no more. You should now get what is rightfully yours; I assume responsibility for this policy.

I requested the landowners this morning that they should forget all about the interest on the money that they advanced to you, especially when such money was used for your subsistence. Nevertheless, so long as no amendments are made on the present law, the landowners can collect 10 per cent interest a year on the money loaned to you. But, when you borrow money for a term of four months, the interest charged should cover that period only, and not a whole a year as erroneously done by some.

I had tried to dissuade the landowners from charging you in per cent interest, inasmuch as you and they are partners. Let us wait and see what they will do with my request. If you owe them palay, you should do one of two things: either pay it in kind during the harvest or pay it in money. To my way of thinking, a cavan of palay should be returned for every cavan of palay borrowed: or if money is to be the payment, it should be paid at the current cost of palay.

Another request I made the landowners was this: The landowner should not eject his tenant as long as the latter performs well his part of their tenancy contract. I hope that the National Assembly will amend the Tenancy Law so as to insert therein a provision to that effect. It is not a tenant's duty to perform domestic chores in the residence of his landlord. A tenant's affiliation with any party or association, be it the Communist Party, the Popular Front, or any other party, should not be considered sufficient cause for a landowner to eject him. Nor is it proper to force a tenant to vote for his landlord's candidate. Provided that the tenant does his duty well and does not grab the harvest for himself, the landowner has no right to oust him.

I would like to make the landowners understand that at the time the tenant shall get protection from being unjustly driven from his work, the first to reap benefits out of the new order will be the landowner himself; for the moment the tenant learns that the landowner cannot oust him without reasonable cause, he shall treat the land he works on as

his own property. True enough, the moment that a tenant comes to learn that inconsequential charges will not suffice to have him ousted from the land he cultivates, he shall change his attitude towards that land, as he would not be the only one to profit therefrom, but his children as well.

One scheme which I shall try my best to obtain to benefit the tenant further, is the inheritance by his children of the privilege of working on the land he works. If a law to this effect is enacted, I am sure all agrarian troubles in this country will be ended. This scheme is not original with me. It was employed in Ireland to put to an end its tenancy troubles. Because of this, the present relations between landowners and tenants in that country are very satisfactory.

I acquired a piece of land situated between the towns of Arayat and Cabiao. My purpose was to learn something about land management. This was what I told my tenants there: "This land is yours as long as you cultivate it; no one shall wrest it from you. Half of the harvest shall be yours. I shall buy you carabaos; you will pay for them by installments. I will return your money when you shall have paid for them in full. Thus, from now on, you can consider the carabaos your own. But if they get lost, you will have to pay me their full price just the same, as not until you shall have fully paid for them that they can be considered really yours." I told them thus for the reason that if I give them full ownership before all their installments could be paid, no one can be too certain about the fate of those carabaos during barrio celebrations.

Regarding politics. I told my tenants this much: "You know, I am the President of the Philippines. Yet, I would not order you to join any party. If you wish to become communists, be communists; if your inclinations are towards the Popular Front, you may all become Popular Fronters. But please refrain from holding your meetings during working hours. Soon after your work, you may start your meeting if you so desire. You may revile even the President himself; that does not matter with me." [*Applause and shouts of "Mabuhay!"*] I believe that if this course is adopted by all landowners, all troubles here will be ended.

Consequently, the most important reform which I shall ask the National Assembly to pass will be the insertion of a provision in the Tenancy Law prohibiting the landowner from expelling his tenant so long as the latter does not do anything in the way of destroying the land or of grabbing the crop-share of the landowner. The share that corresponds to the tenant must be given him. Lending money with interest to tenants is not salutary in principle. I give you my word that I shall employ the entire forces of the Government to make landowners comply with the provisions of the Tenancy Law. I shall not tolerate the continuance of the practice of charging excessive interest by landowners on money loaned to their tenants. [*Applause.*] If you are aggrieved, present your grievances to your barrio lieutenant, your councilor, or your town mayor. They will hear your complaints properly and help you. I have already instructed fiscals and public defenders to hear and attend to your complaints. But please refrain from complaining when your accusations are false; and desist from creating troubles of any sort.

In addition, I am asking both landowners and tenants to forget their past. Strive to get along together in friendliness and good will. He who ignores the law, confident that the usual deviations may still escape prosecution, must understand that he is leading himself to jail.

Countrymen: One moment more, and I shall be through. Let me remind you that you who are tenants should not look upon yourselves as enemies of the landowners; nor should landowners suppose that they are the foes of the tenants. You are not enemies; you are partners—in another word, associates. Our lives will be empty of purpose unless tenants and landlords learn to get together well. You should not think that force will yield you an advantage; because the truth is that it will yield you none.

Let us admit that you are capable of overpowering the Government of the Philippines. But, as long as the sovereignty of the United States remains here, that country will take charge of the preservation of peace. If the Government of the Philippines cannot stop a trouble, the American Government will undertake to do that. And, even granting that the authority of the United States is gone from this country, still we cannot afford to make trouble, as the element of foreign intervention will surely come in. Do you not realize that disorders here would only offer excuses to other countries in taking a hand in our affairs? In the event a foreign nation takes active interest in our internal conflict, others would cease to regard us with respect; and, possibly, such a state might bring back to us the days of the Spanish regime.

I, therefore, ask you not to allow hatred keep its pace. When you feel offended, do what you are doing now—meet peacefully and voice your denunciation—that the Government may hear your grievances and give you its help. The Government is always ready to extend to you its aid. I shall not allow it to forget you. I am a son of the poor; I was not born rich. When still a boy, I also used to plow and harrow. Mine was a small village. I know life as it is lived by poor townfolks. Thus, I wish you to understand that my whole heart is with you. I shall not allow anyone to do violence against you; just as I shall not allow you to do violence against any one. You may rest assured I shall suffer no one to suck the lifeblood from you. But it is necessary that you help me in return. That help you can give me best by not resorting to force or creating trouble.

My last request is, refrain from going on a strike. A strike is not a wise course to take. If you wish me to help you in improving your lot, strive to live peacefully and comply with the mandates of the law.

My friends, have faith in me; and, in turn, I shall have faith in you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Cooperation with the Secretary of Labor; strikes; and the true value of money, May 1, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF LABOR; STRIKES;
AND THE TRUE VALUE OF MONEY**

[Delivered before labor leaders upon the induction into office of
Honorable Jose Avelino as Secretary of Labor, at
Malacañan, Manila, May 1, 1939]

My Friends:

I will take advantage of this gathering occasioned by the induction of Secretary Avelino into his new position, to speak a few words which I would like the labor leaders—who will stage demonstrations with their respective organizations on this clay—to convey to their fellow members.

I regret that I cannot be present at such demonstrations; however, Secretary Avelino will act as my representative who will address you. The new Secretary of Labor was the first to establish a labor organization in Samar; hence, you can count on him as a true supporter of aspirations to promote the economic well-being of laborers. I am not giving you a Secretary of Labor who will start, just now, to study the matters that must necessarily be accomplished to attain your objectives. His heart and his mind evince an inclination for the laborers, so that I hope he will be able to help you and the Government in the realization of our desires. I hope that all the labor leaders and their respective organizations will cooperate with him wholeheartedly.

I do not wish to let this occasion pass without mentioning the name of Secretary Torres. Much as I regretted it, I was forced to accept his resignation because of my policy of changing the members of my Cabinet after every three years that correspond to the term of each legislature. Secretary Torres, although he is not a workingman or a labor leader, is imbued with a true passion to be of assistance to the laborer. He cannot, in that sense, be surpassed any other person that I know of today. My only criticism of him is that sometimes his recommendations, had I followed them, would have drained the coffers of the Government for the benefit of laborers without leaving anything for others. That is why I desire you not to forget the time when Secretary Torres was in office, just as I have not forgotten it.

Secretary Villanueva followed him in office. However brief the period he had cooperated with you, yet he was not behind in his desire to protect you; and if I had been obliged to accept his resignation, it was because Secretary Villanueva—even at the time I had offered him the post which he subsequently held—told me that his high blood pressure ailment was not yet fully cured then, which he surmised would in all probability oblige him to tender his resignation however inopportune it should be. I shall not forget his services, not only when he was Secretary of Labor but also when we were together in the Philippine Senate.

I am reiterating my request to you that all cooperation be given to Secretary Avelino. The cooperation that labor leaders can give not only to Secretary Avelino but also to my Government should be for you not to induce your comrades to use means that would bring about disorders. That is similar to what I said in a speech or in a message to the National Assembly regarding strikes.

A strike is a weapon which laborers can employ within the bounds of law. It is not prohibited here; but a strike is a weapon that not only hurts or which may hurt whomsoever it is used upon, but also may hurt those who are actually using it. And you should especially consider that although one could plan a strike, yet from its effects the sufferers would be not only labor and capital but also the public at large; more so if a strike were to be staged against public utilities, such as transportation, electricity, or an estate, as when rice tenants declare a strike. Such strikes make the townspeople suffer most; hence, as much as possible, I request you all not to resort to such method.

We have a Department of Labor, and we also have a Court of Industrial Relations. Bring your complaints and charges before them. Not only that. I will ask Secretary Avelino and the Secretary of Justice to have their departments combine in sending investigators to conduct investigations as to whether the laborers are being treated unjustly or their rights are not being respected by their employers.

If you really have faith in our Government, as I believe you do, such is only what I request of you on Labor Day. Perhaps the labor leaders who read of the happenings in other lands may say that the concessions received by our laborers in the Philippines are still few. I will, however, relate to you an incident which occurred here in 1918, while I was President of the Senate, which would show you that we have already accomplished much although we have not yet gone far.

In that year, a strike was declared by cigarmakers who composed what was, at the time, the only established labor organization in Manila. The laborers asked that I be made arbitrator in that case. Because of my high position, they hoped that the owners of the factory would not refuse any intercession on my part should I be the arbitrator. I asked for nothing except that a committee of laborers be allowed to confer with a committee of the owners of the factory. When I mentioned this plan of mine to the factory owners, they answered me that they would not want to settle differences with their laborers, but that they had no objections at all to dealing with me. Think that it was not so long ago when business executives considered it humiliating for themselves to confer with the representatives of labor. I replied that it was necessary to negotiate with the laborers, because if I, who was President of the Senate then, could confer with them, why shouldn't they? They agreed to do so. Upon attaining that, I told Potenciano Salita that such was already a big concession, and that it was necessary for him to demand things which could be granted in order to win in that first battle. The workers won then, and I decreed that labor and capital should cooperate in developing the industries—a condition which, up to now, I consider should actually be.

Today, can there be anyone, however prominent he is in the Philippines, who could say that his personality would be sullied if he were to talk with a committee of laborers? None! [*Applause*]. Do not be over impatient. Have a little fortitude. All that are lawfully yours, you will obtain through the assistance of the Government.

I would like to remind you of another matter which you should consider: with what you receive, money has no actual value. Money has no intrinsic value and no worth. Do you know what happened to King Midas in the early days? It was said that God had asked him what he wanted most, to which this King—who considered nothing better than gold—replied that he wanted everything he touched to turn to gold. That wish was granted and everything he touched was transformed into gold. Even his food was changed into gold; so much that he became so hungry as to disavow his coveted power. Contemplate the meaning of this legend.

The benefit of money lies in the things it can buy; therefore if we are to discuss wages, we must base them on what we can buy with the amount that we shall earn. For example, the P3 that is earned daily by a laborer cannot be compared, if the prices of what he will buy are high, with the P1 earned by another if what the latter can buy are cheaper things. Money is truly not the measure of the needs of man, but the measure of what money can buy and of what man will need in his lifetime.

I am not going to prolong my discourse on this subject for lack of time; besides, you will yet have to stage your parade. I wish to inculcate in your minds, however what I have just said about wages, which you must not forget.

I ask once more your cooperation with our new Secretary of Labor, and the cooperation that you can give him will also be your cooperation with my administration. I repeat: Before you declare a strike, bring your case to the Department of Labor or to the Court of Industrial Relations first.

That is all, my friends.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Address of President Quezon on the Medical Profession and Public Health activities in the Philippines, May 2, 1939

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND PUBLIC HEALTH
ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

[Delivered at the annual convention of the Philippine Islands Medical
Association at Baguio, May 2, 1939]

Mr. President and Members of the Philippine Islands Medical Association:

It affords me great pleasure to meet you on this occasion and to express the thanks of the Government for the cooperation it has received not only from your association but also from your individual members.

The practice of medicine is, of course, a profession. But it is more than that. It is also an avocation; for the man who follows this profession must be inspired by motives other than to merely earn a livelihood. He who has no innate love for humanity beyond and above that which the average human heart feels has no business to belong to your fraternity. The doctor who can disregard the call of a patient without compunction, simply because that patient cannot pay as much as he thinks he should be paid for his services, is a disgrace to the profession.

As individual doctors, your main concern is the treatment of your patients, but as an association. I take it that your main objective is to be of help to the advancement of medicine and the improvement of the health of the community. In order that you may be apprised of the progress we are making in the health service, I shall give you a concise account of what has been done in this respect.

Since the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, public health has been given constant and careful attention by the National Government. The regular annual national appropriation to promote public health has been gradually increased. For the Bureau of Health, it was increased from P3,033,376.10 in 1935 to P4,233,031.68 in 1938; for the Philippine General Hospital, from P581,069.40 in 1935 to P994,877.56 in 1938; and for the Quarantine Service, from P134,099 in 1935 to P192,531.15 in 1938.

In addition to these amounts, there have been appropriated P500,000 for the construction of three leprosaria in Luzon; P150,000 for the improvement of several leprosaria in Mindanao and in the Bicol region; P2,000,000 for the construction of hospitals in the provinces; P1,500,000 for the construction of additional buildings in the National Psychopathic Hospital; P325,000 for the construction of a new building for the Baguio Hospital; P300,000 for the construction and equipment of a new building of the Maternity and Children's Hospital in Manila; P2,000,000 for the construction of additional wards for the Philippine General Hospital; P1,000,000 for the construction of dispensary buildings in the municipalities; P175,000 for the investigation, improvement, and development of health resorts at natural springs; P1,200,000 for the drilling of artesian wells in the municipalities throughout the Philippines; and P10,000,000 for a revolving loan fund for the construction of permanent public markets, slaughterhouses, and waterworks; thus making a total amount of P19,150,000.

Since 1935 there have been appropriated from the National Charity Sweepstakes fund the amount of P3,509,121.73 for the improvement of public health. Of this sum, P1,660,475.42 was given to the Philippine Tuberculosis Society

to increase its appropriation for the operation and maintenance of sanatoria and tuberculosis dispensaries, and for the construction of new buildings for the Quezon Institute; and P200,000 was appropriated for the establishment of National Charity clinics in municipalities where no government medical practitioner resides. The rest was given as an aid to make more adequate the funds for the campaign against infant mortality which is being undertaken by the Bureau of Health through its puericulture centers, and for the improvement and extension of the service of government hospitals.

With the establishment of the charity clinics, two objectives are sought to be accomplished. New doctors must be given an inducement to go to the provinces and start the practice of their profession in the small municipalities, and not encouragement to remain only in the large centers of population. We can give these young physicians a very modest compensation for rendering two hours of service every day—they shall give consultation and treatment to poor patients who will come to their clinics—and they can devote the rest of the day to their private practice.

The public health activities in 1935 when the Commonwealth Government was inaugurated, were not only continued but also improved. Other new and important activities have been undertaken since then.

To properly combat the tuberculosis problem, advanced improvements were made in the therapy as well as in diagnostic facilities by the construction of modern sanatorial buildings and tuberculosis dispensaries and by the use of modern traveling X-ray laboratories.

A tuberculosis research laboratory exclusively dedicated to investigation was started in the San Lazaro Hospital on June 1, 1938. The use of the collapse therapy in the treatment of tuberculosis has been extensively employed. More physicians were trained for the proper treatment and diagnosis of this disease.

For the control of malaria, the Malaria Control Field laboratory at Tungkong Manga, in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, which has already earned a reputation not only here but also abroad, has continued to be the seat of extensive research work. Three malaria control units are actually conducting extensive and systematic surveys of malaria conditions in the field. Survey and inspection work in malarious provinces is made from time to time in order to determine the areas urgently needing control work. At the San Lazaro Hospital, research on malaria treatment is also undertaken.

To further improve the present methods of control of leprosy, research in therapy as well as in etiology and epidemiology has been not only continued but also intensified for the search of better means to make the detection, segregation, and treatment of leprosy persons more effective. In the skin dispensaries that have been established in the most important foci of the disease, persons having skin diseases are examined to determine whether or not they are suffering from leprosy. These dispensaries have been found very useful in the study of the early manifestation of the disease, in certain epidemiological studies, and in the promotion of educational work.

With an appropriation of P25,000, a more systematic campaign against yaws was started in 1937. A similar amount was appropriated both for 1938 and for this year. There were 20 field units for the detection and treatment of the disease in operation during 1938. In the same year, 31,647 cases were treated in the Philippines as against 25,723 in 1937.

The water supply in Manila and in the provinces has been greatly improved. In the nation's capital not only has a modern and an up-to-date water treatment plant been constructed, but also the supply of water has been greatly increased, thus preventing an annual shortage of water during the dry season as was the case in former years. More artesian wells and waterworks were constructed in the provinces.

For the proper detection of communicable diseases in the provinces, 11 public health laboratories have been established and 20 more are in the process of establishment during the current year.

The public markets in the City of Manila and in the provinces, which are veritable sore spots in our sanitary scheme, are receiving constant attention to make them more sanitary.

The waste disposal all over the Philippines is also being gradually improved. With the five-year latrine campaign which ended in 1937, a total of 1,233,040 sanitary toilets in the homes were constructed.

While two maternity hospitals financed by women's clubs but managed by the Bureau of Health had to be closed, yet the total bed capacity of the remaining hospitals had increased from 5,148 in 1935 to 6,675 in 1938. The number of public dispensaries was likewise increased from 1,063 in 1935 to 1,376 in 1938. One new hospital in Samar and one new building for the Baguio Hospital were constructed in 1938, while a few modern public dispensary buildings were also erected in the municipalities.

To combat infant mortality, 14 puericulture centers were in operation in Manila in 1938 as against six in 1935, while there were 278 active and 288 inactive centers in the provinces last year as against 191 active and 237 inactive centers in 1935. The amount of insular aid given to puericulture centers was P113,560 in 1938 as against P92,791 in 1935. However, last year's number of community health-social centers, maternity and children's hospitals, and the schools of midwifery remained the same as that of 1935.

With these activities and accomplishments, the demographic returns have shown noticeable improvements. The crude death-rate was 21.29 per 1,000 Christian population in 1938 as against 21.69 in 1935. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 139.04 in 1938 as against 153.34 in 1935, and the birth rate was 41.67 last year as against 38.92 in 1935.

As your president well said in his message to your association, the problem of health is a direct responsibility of the Government and of society. But the Government will be impotent unless society does its part.

All the millions of pesos spent in sanitation, hospitals, and other means of prevention or treatment of diseases will accomplish little unless the living conditions of the masses are greatly improved. No one knows better than you that the most important factor in the fight against diseases is nature itself and the constitution of the individual. A weak constitution cannot resist diseases.

It is, therefore, my hope and my expectation that your association as a whole and you as individual members will help the Government in carrying out its social justice program. There is nothing which the Government can do that will improve the health of our people as quickly and assuredly as when the masses of the people are given wages which will permit them to live a healthy life in a healthy environment. I take advantage of this occasion to appeal to your association to cooperate with the Government in its program of social justice. This problem is an essential part of the work to be done so as to improve the health of our people. So much interest is now shown by the Government in the work of sanitation that there is a measure which contemplates the separation of the Bureau of Health from the Department of Public Instruction with a view to establishing a Department of Health. Until the National Assembly passes the bill creating this new department, the Secretary of Public Instruction will remain to be the official of the Government responsible for the Bureau of Health. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of asking Secretary Bocobo to come with me this morning and to say a few words to you.

I thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation you extended to me to address the members of your association at this annual convention, and I hope you will honor us with your presence at a small party which we are giving for you this afternoon.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Military Training Camps as Fields of Instruction for Democracy, May 8, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**MILITARY TRAINING CAMPS AS FIELDS OF INSTRUCTION
FOR DEMOCRACY**

[Delivered before the officers, R. O. T. C. cadets, and trainees of the
Philippine Army at Camp Murphy, Rizal, on May 8, 1939]

To the Officers and Trainees of Camp Murphy:

I am happy to note the attitude of the R. O. T. C. cadets undergoing training in army camps and the splendid way they have taken this dose of real camp life. They are proving themselves to be of the stuff good soldiers are made of.

Military training camps of a citizen army should serve as a field of instruction for democracy, and this should mean only one thing: equal privileges to all. I do not want the sons of influential persons undergoing training in camps to believe that they have lighter duties and responsibilities than their companions who come from poor families. I want all to eat side by side, to work side by side, and to sleep in beds of the same kind.

I am glad to find that my concept of the army training camp is being lived up to by the officers and trainees of Camp Murphy, where the trainees and cadets are treated equally.

I shall explain briefly why I decided to issue an order requiring all R. O. T. C. cadets to undergo eight weeks of instruction with the trainees in army training camps. I have two good reasons for my action. First, because in camp the cadet acquires the necessary discipline, sense of duty, and the training required of a military officer; and secondly, because as future officers of the nation's army, R. O. T. C. cadets should learn how to deal with the men they are to lead in the event of emergency.

In the training camps, your sense of duty is aroused to the highest pitch, and you are taught discipline which means obeying not only orders given to you but also those which you yourselves give. You are taught to use your muscles in useful work, thereby developing your physical endurance, which is another essential quality for manhood.

By undergoing camp instruction with the trainees, the R. O. T. C. cadets will be better acquainted with their soldiers and will know how to treat them humanely and understandingly. The officer who comes from a rich family and who treats his servant like a beast, has no place in the army of a democracy.

At no time since I was inaugurated President of the Philippines have I felt more confident of the future than now, because it is no longer a hope but a reality that every Filipino will be in his place and will be willing to do his duty when the time comes.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Quality of Officers of the Philippine Army, May 17, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

QUALITY OF OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY

[Delivered on the occasion of the taking of oath of office of Brigadier-General Vicente Lim as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, at Malacañan, on May 17, 1939]

Gentlemen:

I have taken advantage of this occasion to say a few words to you. “con el corazón en la mano”—with my heart in my hand—as they say it in Spanish. You all realize that an army is as good as its corps of officers; it cannot be any better. This is particularly true with you, gentlemen, who are at present at the head of that organization.

From its incipency the Philippine Army has met with very serious difficulties. In the first place, we had no man in the country who had the preparation to advise the Government of the Commonwealth as to what should be done in the organization of our National Defense. Fortunately for us, I easily found a way out of this difficulty. My long personal acquaintance with the former Chief of Staff of the United States Army and his love for the Philippines, as well as his personal affection for me, solved the question. I went to General Douglas MacArthur and asked him to help us organize our national defense forces; and, without hesitation, he accepted the offer wholeheartedly.

The next obstacle was the material to be used in the organization of the army. We had two elements at the time: the Philippine Constabulary, an efficient police organization that has been in the public service for almost as long a time as the Civil Government of the Philippines, and the Filipino officers serving in the Scout force of the regular army of the United States. These were the only available materials then. Although the Constabulary is an efficient national police organization, yet it was not prepared to do army work for it had not been trained for that purpose. It could do the work of an army only within certain limits.

The Filipino Scout officers belong to the United States Army. As they were not in the service of the Philippine Government, they were at our disposal only if and when they were willing to serve our Government. Most of these men were trained in the military academy of the Federal Government at West Point; others acquired their training through a long period of active service, so that from the point of view of military preparation they were better trained than our Constabulary officers. Yet even if they were willing to serve us, these Scout officers had no sufficient experience in the command of large bodies of men to provide us a competent leadership in the organization of our army. These were our main difficulties.

When we started the organization of the Philippine Army, doubts as to what the Philippine Scouts would do were expressed in the newspapers. Finally, a committee of Scout officers came to me and expressed the willingness of their comrades to serve in the Philippine Army.

I want to say to every one here that I prefer to have no army at all in the Philippines, unless every man in the army, from the highest ranking officer to the lowest soldier, believes and practices the ideal that the army officer should be, above all, an honorable man. I would rather have officers who know very little of military science and tactics, provided they are honest and honorable, than officers who know much but are dishonest and dishonorable. I want

every officer of the Philippine Army to consider his uniform as incontrovertible evidence that he is a gentleman. I want every one of you to love that uniform more than your wife, your sister, your son, or yourself; and that love should be manifested in your determination not to allow anybody to disgrace the uniform.

You need no courts-martial to do away with the men who are unworthy of their uniform. You should be a judge of yourself and your associates. If you know of any one who is a discredit to the army, you should be the first to take action against him in order to get rid of the unworthy. This is the difference between an army whose officers have little regard for their own honor and that of their followers and an army where only good men, men with high ideals, are retained as officers. When the people see an officer of the latter army, they will say, "Here is a good citizen;" whereas, of the former, there will be doubts as to whether or not its officer places honesty, honor, dignity, and love of country above all other considerations, for your own prestige and so that you may look every man straight in the eye, you must see to it that anybody who is unworthy of his uniform does not stay in the organization. I know nothing about army organization, but I know the kind of officers I want to have. So long as I am President, I will get rid of all the undesirable men in the army; and I will always find some means of doing it. I prefer to have no army at all if I cannot do that.

I want to close my remarks with another reiteration of my thanks to General MacArthur for his unselfish devotion to the work that I have entrusted to him. For some time we will need the help, the leadership, and the advice of General MacArthur. I want also to thank the Scout officers who have proven that they are not only good soldiers but good Filipinos as well. I want to thank the former Constabulary officers for the discipline and the loyalty that they have shown in the past. I expect cooperation among you.

We have a General Staff. Under the law, the Chief of Staff and the General Staff have their own responsibilities. I expect the General Staff to perform its duties, to assume its responsibilities, and to present its views courageously to General MacArthur; and whenever there is a disagreement, I expect to study the matter myself for, after all, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, who is a civilian, has the final say. Nobody here should think, if he has something reasonable to say, that he is too humble to say it; nor should anybody feel so big that no one can profitably advise him. I am always ready to hear suggestions. In the army, the suggestions should be coursed through proper channels, otherwise there would be chaos that might eventually wreck our whole scheme of government. But good ideas should be presented to me; they should not be kept away from me. Also they always have a way of reaching me.

Gentlemen, you have the greatest opportunity that a man can have. The success of our undertaking is in your hands. Neither General MacArthur nor I can build the National Defense of the Philippines. We have to count upon you. We are confident of success because we believe in you, and we hope that every one will do the part assigned to him in this great task.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Life and Honor to a Soldier, May 29, 1939 SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

LIFE AND HONOR TO A SOLDIER

[Delivered at the graduation exercises of the Reserve Officers Service
School of the Philippine Army, at Camp Dau, Pampanga,
on May 29, 1939]

General MacArthur, Major-General Valdes, Officers, and Graduates:

I am fully convinced that I am among soldiers today. This is the first time that I have had the rare privilege of listening to two of the shortest and best speeches—those of Colonel Salvador V. Reyes and Colonel Fidel Segundo—that I have ever heard.

These are the kind of speeches that a soldier should learn to deliver, for a soldier is a man of action and not of words. I shall follow the example of the soldier by saying only a few words this morning. It was Napoleon who also said that “they only are fit to live those who are not afraid to die.”

Every soldier should bear those words in mind. A few more words, and I will be through. They only are fit to live those who live with honor. A man who has no concept of honor, who does not know that honor is above life itself, should never wear the uniform of a soldier. So, to you, I have only that message to give: they only are fit to live those who are not afraid to die, and a man is only entitled to live so long as he lives with honor.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Labor Unity in the Philippines, June 5, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Labor Unity in the Philippines**

*[Delivered on the occasion of the Labor Unity Parade, sponsored by
the National Labor Commission, on the Luneta, Manila, in the
afternoon of June 5, 1939]*

My Friends and Countrymen:

In behalf of the Government and in my own. I am extending to the workers in the Philippines happy greetings this afternoon. I wish to express to them my great joy over what my eyes behold today, which is no other than the realization of my long-felt desire for the coming of the day when the labor organizations in our country would arrive at a conciliation and subordinate themselves into only one organization in order to have strength and stability.

It is to the great honor of Secretary Avelino that this unification of the different labor elements in the Philippines has taken place under his administration of the Department of Labor. And because I would not be able to shake hands with you all, I will simply shake hands with Secretary Avelino [*applause*], and by this handshaking I promise you that you can be sure that the Government of the Philippines will defend the rights of all workers in our country. [*Long, ringing applause.*] Perhaps a few see some kind of danger in this eventuality, because they may be thinking that if the workers in the Philippines have absolute unity already, they will utilize this strength to trample upon the rights or prerogatives of others. I do not believe that such will transpire. In my long experience with the feelings and thoughts of the people in our country, especially the poor, my belief is firm that the Filipino does not only aspire to have his rights—which are beneficial to him respected, but also he is, if properly enlightened, ready to recognize the rights of others. That is why I am hopeful that this union of labor organizations in the Philippines, will not only be the cause of their complete integration in their demands, but will also be instrumental in helping us all, because through the representatives of these organizations, it will be easy to understand whatever is being contemplated by means of equity and to uphold the rights of all the workers.

In other countries laborers achieved victory only after a long period of struggle, and sometimes, by means of spilling blood. Now, in the so-called totalitarian states, the Government leads in the establishment of labor organizations; but, even if in other places or in the totalitarian states the laborers have already gained some concessions, all that they do is subject to the decision and will of the ruler of such nations. Here, however, although our Government fervently wishes to be of help to the laborers and to see them prosperous, yet it does not interfere with you but, instead, allows you full freedom to form your organization according to your wishes. What the Government only does is help you, and in so assisting it also allows your will and thought to prevail.

There is nothing on earth so valuable as freedom. Hence, even if the Government has been doing good things for you, if these are being done through imposition and you have nothing to do but follow them—this, in my belief, will not be as satisfactory to you as when you follow your own will. That is why, although Secretary Avelino had been of help in intervening to bring this end, you really were the ones who worked and triumphed, because your leaders were the ones who truly decided on this matter, while the Government did nothing but cooperate with you.

My countrymen: we have a long way to go before we come to a situation where it can be said that all are receiving what is due them, and that their lives are truly comfortable. My firm belief is that that day will come. For that day to come, however, not only the Government, not only capital, not only you but also other laborers like you, must ponder over our situation so that we would not make any mistake regarding whatever we desire to achieve. The workers in the Philippines must realize that we are starting a new life, and that the time we are facing is not the same as the past. We are going to establish our own Government which shall not be under any nation. In these days, every Filipino should think not only for his well-being or that of his companions, but also for the good of us all. If you

workers are asking your employers for something which you think should be given to you. I am appealing to your leaders who represent you, to study whether or not what you ask for is within the power of the employers to give and if it can be given. You must not forget the saying: "If we want eggs, we must not kill the hen." [*Ovation and cries of "Long live the President!"*]

To capital. I can say this: it must realize that nobody has the right to get rich at the expense of labor. [*Applause.*] Labor is more valuable than capital. [*Ovation and cries of "Long live the President!"*] Capital may be wasted, ruined, or lost, but as long as there is labor, time will come when capital will appear again. [*Applause.*] But if labor is lost, capital will appear again. [*Applause*] But if labor is lost, capital cannot do anything. [*Cries of "Long live the President!"*] He is blind who does not see this truism. Not only thousands but millions of years had passed before capital appeared on earth. It was also hundreds of years that man had been already living on earth and still there was no capital. Bit by bit through acquired knowledge and by fighting his way against the forces of nature, he learned to gather food in order to exist not only for the present but also to save something to eat for the morrow. That was the beginning of the so-called capital. That is why I repeat: labor is more valuable than capital. [*Ovation and cries of "Long live the President!"*] Not only that: the right of labor is more precious than property rights, or the rights to property, because those of labor are humane rights. [*Cries of "Long live President Quezon!"*]

Capital must use its rights, but in using them it should not forget that the prerogatives of labor are more important. [*Applause.*] Capital or the investor wants to gain. Why? Because he wants to have not only riches but also the comforts of life so that he and his children also may enjoy them. But does he not think that if life is valuable to him and it is truly nice to live in comfort, those who work for him are also endowed with life and are desirous of enjoying it, too?

These are matters which if kept in mind and practised by all will, I hope, lead to the day when those with possessions would have nothing to fear, because their property will be respected by their fellow men. If everybody bears this in mind, the time will come when there will be absolute truth to the statement that nobody dies of hunger in our country.

I have no ambition in life except to see the day come when the laborers in the Philippines shall lead the lives of men, [*applause*] and have their rights respected. I expect your being united to be of help to the Government in giving realization to matters it has long desired to accomplish.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon during the celebration of the First Rice Planting Day in the Philippines, July 9, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
During the Celebration of the First Rice Planting Day in the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Buenavista Estate, San Ildefonso, Bulacan, July 9, 1939]

SIGNIFICANCE OF RICE PLANTING DAY

My Countrymen:

I have set this day for the celebration of the rice planting season in the Philippines. We, the officials of the Government, have jointly come here in order to acquaint you with the history of the planting of rice and its significance to the people. The President of the Commonwealth, the members of the Cabinet, as well as the Speaker and the members of the National Assembly and the provincial governors of the different provinces, are all present; in short, it can be said that all the public officials, who have been elected by our countrymen, have joined with you here today.

Palay is the most important cereal that is planted in the archipelago. It gives life to us. As long as we have palay, we cannot be insulted by anybody; as long as we have rice, our economy will be maintained undisturbed; hence, I have designated this date as Rice Planting Day so as to familiarize the people of the Philippines with the importance of this plant in this country. It is also my desire to extol the dymity of the tillers of the soil, who are the source of our livelihood.

Countrymen: I should like to narrate briefly to you a story which I had occasion to relate before. Once there was a king who asked God to grant him the most precious thing of his choice. This wish was given him. The king asked for gold, and God willingly gave him gold. With this favor, anything that he touched was immediately turned into gold; so that even his food was thus changed. As a consequence, he could not eat any more, for anything that he took into his mouth was changed into gold; hence, he died of hunger.

So significant is this narrative that I wish to say now that gold alone cannot give life to the people; instead we can be certain of death if we have nothing to eat. But although we may not have gold, yet we would not possibly die if we have food to eat. This is the reason why palay is very important to the economic life of the Filipinos.

In the past, we felt ashamed if we were seen with our clothes stained with mud, our pants rolled up, and our work was in the rice field. We were showing then that a farmer occupies a lowly position. The truth is that there is no man in our country more honorable than the tiller of the soil. No country will be economically sound, and its inhabitants contented and happy, if the men do not love the soil and know how to fill it. The stability of a nation as dependent upon the soil tillers, and the power of a country rests upon the zeal of its citizens. Hence, we should celebrate Rice Planting Day, and more than this, we should learn the history and ponder upon the importance of palay as well as the dignity of the man planting the rice. /Applause./

This day is also significant to the residents of this place—the Buenavista Estate—because to them, this is the beginning of a new life. I have been informed that there are still a few persons here who do not believe in what the Government of the Philippines is actually doing and in what it will do for the Buenavista Estate and for your own well-being in the near future. I have received the information that some people here regret the intervention of the Government in your affairs.

Countrymen from San Ildefonso and San Rafael: Have you not noticed the new movement which has been initiated in your place? Do you not see that we are constructing roads leading to your barrios? Are you not aware that you will soon have a road which will be wider than those in Manila? Do you not know that on this day we will lay the cornerstone of a new hospital which will be built here? Do you not understand that even now you can borrow money which can be paid in installments and at a low rate of interest; and that this facility will greatly help you in the cultivation of your land? Do you not realize that from now on you will acquire a bigger and better share from your cultivated lands than that acquired by tenants of other estates? And that, believing that the judicial tribunal will recognize these lands as yours or as belonging to the Government, is a mistake? Have you seen the decisions of the Court of First Instance and of the Supreme Court? You wasted time, you wasted money, you wasted energy—all for what? Simply for you to find out that the courts cannot help but recognize the Torrens title.

Perhaps you would not have wasted your time and squandered your money, had you not been in litigation. While you who spent for the court proceedings did not get any benefit, another person reaped the profit. However, in this activity of the Government here, you will see that it is not that particular person who will get the benefit, but you who are toiling in the fields; and if we are here, including Secretary Roxas and Mr. Sanvictores, it is for no other reason than to be of service to you. My salary will not be increased just because this estate has been bought; the fact is, with the intervention of the Government in your affairs, I have doubled my attention on this estate, and because of that I often have a headache. /Applause./ Of course, being a new government activity, it naturally needs my attention now and then. What personal benefit would I get from it? Nothing! My benefit will be in terms of service to you. My duty is to see to it that you attain your economic welfare. /Applause./ Your land will not be mine; it is yours, and you will ultimately own it. Which do you prefer; a disorderly life, or a peaceful one? In the past you were helpless, you were always prosecuted by Valero, your lands were confiscated, and you were driven out of your premises. It is good that I did not allow the Constabulary to help drive you out of your lands or have your harvest confiscated. Do not think that this was Rustia's act; no, I was the one who ordered the Constabulary to stop confiscating your harvest, for I knew that you had nothing to eat. /Applause./ Remember that I am not referring to "Acting Governor" Rustia of Bulacan. You must not be mistaken. It is the other one whom you already know. /Laughter./

As all troubles have now ended, let us start a new life. You have no more Constabulary soldiers who used to watch your hourly in the past. When there are soldiers around, it seems as if you are not as good Filipinos as the rest. I hope that you will now not only live peacefully, but also happily. I fail to recall what I told you when I came here before. Do you remember? /Laughter./ A man in the platform said: "You told us that you will not return anymore." Ah, you really do not remember what I told you then. I said that I would resign if I could not effect any change towards prosperity in your economic status. Do not think that I have intentionally forgotten what I told you. /Applause./ If I only told you that I would not return here anymore, what is that to me? That is not a difficult task to fulfill; but what concerns me most is your prosperity which should be brought about by this new movement which the Government has started.

My countrymen: within a few years we shall see major changes in your barrios. You will have good roads in this place. You know that landowners in the different provinces are disgusted with the activities of the Government here, for they fear that their tenants would demand for the same concessions as you have been given in this estate. My reply to those landowners and to their tenants is that what the Government is doing in the Buenavista Estate cannot be asked of the property owners, for their lands do not belong to the Government. The Government is now constructing roads and building a hospital here; hence, it can be readily seen that it is not the estate but the Government which is doing all these improvements. You should know that I am giving seventy-five thousand pesos (P75,000) to be spent for the building of roads in this municipality. In the whole Province of Bulacan, the Government has not spent an equal amount for its municipalities and barrios. I have taken this sum from the funds allotted to different assemblymen, just to help you in the construction of roads in this town. /Applause./ I just filched this amount from them /laughter/; and I am giving it to you, because Secretary Roxas has asked me for funds for this project. /Prolonged applause./

The day will come when the Government will have no more funds, because I am afraid that all the people will clamor from the state management the same improvements as are being done here. You are lucky, because the Government has aided you first. I advise those who still nurse a grudge against the Government to remedy their own

headaches; and I hope those who do not belong to this place, but are living only through your generosity, will not create further troubles, since I will not tolerate any disorder here. /Applause./

Countrymen: I shall now plant rice. /Applause./ Rice planting is a serious task, although I am telling you now that my rice planting at this moment will just be a joke, because this noble work does not belong to us who are quite advanced in years. A few days ago I planted rice seedlings in my hacienda, and the consequence was that I nearly died of exhaustion. It is really a difficult task—a task which should only be performed by the young men and women for their bones are still soft and they can stop without feeling any pain in the back. But an old person gets easily tired and fatigued in planting rice.

My countrymen: I implore God to give you His grace, and may all the things which I have been doing in Buenavista Estate become the source of peace and prosperity to the farmers here. /Prolonged applause./

From Messages of the President, Vol. 5, Part II, pp. 141-146.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Amelioration of the Laboring Class, July 16, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Amelioration of the Laboring Class**

[Delivered in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, July 16, 1939]

My Countrymen:

I have come here today in order to show to the laboring class, especially to our farmers, that the Philippine Government which I represent is joining your movement with no other desire than to make evident the importance of the men who cultivate our land as well as their rights. It is not only because Secretary Avelino has something to do with this movement or that the Philippine Army band has led your parade, but also because my Cabinet secretaries and even myself have participated in, and are supporting your, movement that we can now assert that the day of victory for the laborers in the Philippines has come; and that you cannot now be ignored and insulted by anyone, nor can your rights be trampled upon. (Applause.) No one should think that this movement of the farmers signifies that you are opposing anyone. This movement should not be construed to mean that the leaders desire to prejudice the landowners or the rich. What we should evince in movements of this kind are the aspirations and the rights of the workingman who, although poor—although his livelihood comes only from the Sweat of his brow, has inherent rights as a human being that are no less important than those of the wealthiest. (Applause.)

I have never yet seen a labor demonstration like the one I have witnessed this afternoon. I have seen many parades in Manila, such as those held on Rizal Day and the parade of laborers on every first day of May; but I have not yet seen a demonstration like this, which is purely at your own initiative, as can be seen on the faces of the paraders, whose true desire is to manifest their approval of the movement that would ultimately result in the consolidation of the organizations of farmers. Never in my entire political career have I seen men like these who, despite the strong rain, continued their march and stood here just as you now stand, not only seemingly unmindful, but also with utter disregard, of this heavy downpour. (Applause.)

I, in my capacity as President of the Philippines, have no right to seize the property of anyone and give it to another. I do not want to do that. Hence it should not be supposed by anyone that, because of my remarks and my way of administering the Government, I have a desire to seize the property of the landowners or take away from them what is really theirs. I have no other desire than this: that what ought to be given to the farmers, that which should be the proper or commensurate compensation for their work or toil, should not be taken away from them but given instead, because it is their right to profit by their labor.

In the past, not only one or two but many poor people were defrauded of their legitimate earnings by their employers. At times, the money they borrow is charged a very high rate of interest, which is collected or seized during the harvest season. At other times, even articles of prime necessity are sold to them at exorbitant prices. Frequently, also, after being ordered to perform jobs that are not ordinary farm work, they are not compensated for their services. Many treated their tenants as though they were slaves who could be ordered to do anything the masters liked, and who should obey them as they obey God. These abuses, however, are gradually disappearing, not only because the laborers are eventually realizing their rights and prerogatives, but because the government itself has issued orders changing that system so as to put an end to the abuses which are customary with our ancestors.

It is not only once that, while addressing laborers, I have uttered statements against labor leaders. I can well state that there are bad labor leaders, as really as there are. Oftentimes, these leaders prejudice not only the landowners or the capitalists but also the importance and value of the labor movement. Nevertheless, the truth is that these leaders are the ones who can help and are helping you, because through them the Government learns of what is transpiring on the farms. Were it not for these leaders who reach those places, the Government would have no way of knowing the occurrences there. Hence, the agreement among the leaders of your respective organizations to have only a

single federation to embrace the various societies of farmers, is most appropriate, for then everyone of them could report every unfair land system in his community to the Commission which they have created, and the latter could inform the Government of the necessary measures that should be adopted for the welfare of the tenants.

I have been telling the labor leaders and the Commission that if they really want to be of help to the tenants or the laborers, it is not necessary for them to have successive and daily speaking tours. It is not necessary for you to utter words that would please them. What is greatly needed is for you to show in deeds, not in words, that you can be of help to the laborers and the farmers. (Applause.) And you would be showing in deeds that you are helping the laborers by cooperating with the Government in protecting their rights against the evil practices now happening on the farms or, if you notice anything concerning farmers that need adjustment, by informing the Government of it, so that the latter could help you. Because of that, you should give importance to your words.

The Government has just established a bank—the Agricultural and Industrial Bank. Your leaders have told me that one of the things which farmers need is the grant of loans from this bank. You know that the money of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank, which has been created by the National Assembly, is not the money of any one. It is the money of the Government—the people's money. We cannot simply give away that money to anybody, because the people own it. We call this country our own, it is true; but you, the farmers, are not the only ones composing it. The landowners, you, as well as all other citizens, constitute the nation. Therefore, in order that you may secure a loan, the bank must first be sure that you would be able to pay back whatever amount it may lend you. You have no property or land which you can offer as security, but you may be given loans, for which your future share of the harvest will be the security; or if you already possess your crop share, you can also borrow money at a very low rate of interest by pledging the same. You may also be extended loans through your associations, which would guarantee the loan of every one. But remember that because it is the money of the Government, or the people's, it cannot simply be squandered or thrown away, or given to anyone without sufficient security.

If you wish that system to succeed and continue, it is necessary that small associations be informed that the money to be loaned to you should not be wasted, and that your obligations and promises should be taken care of and fulfilled. The trouble with many of us is that we make too many promises while asking for help, but once our need is already granted, we forget our promises altogether. I hope that you will not forget your promises. That is not my money, it is not my own; it is the Government's, and I have no authority to give it away to anyone.

I have heard of what your leaders often said: that I am the only patriotic pro-labor man in the Government. That is not true; I have not accomplished anything yet. Much as I wish to help the laborers or the farmers, I cannot do anything if the National Assembly does not enact a law which could be of help to you or which could protect your rights. I am not a dictator, although some say I am one. I have no authority to enact laws. It is not because I had proposed a certain measure that all the people should follow it. The National Assembly is the only one vested with authority to enact laws that should be followed by all citizens of our country.

We already have laws approved by the National Assembly which are of great help to the laborers and the farmers. Only at the last session of the Assembly, a bill amending the tenancy law was passed through the efforts of Assemblyman Magalona. It was his committee that worked hard in the interest of the laborers. Assemblyman Alzate also was among those who signed the bill that amended the tenancy law. In that amendment is a provision to the effect that the landowner cannot eject his tenant as long as the latter complies with their agreement on matters relating to farm tenancy. Hence the landowner cannot simply drive away his tenant without cause, nor compel him to leave just because the latter did not vote for the candidate of his choice. If that tenant neither works nor attends to the land he took to be cultivated, he can be ejected by the landowner. The tenant can be dismissed if he seizes the crop share of the landowner, or if the latter sees that the former is neglecting the land which he should till and doing nothing except loafing around. The tenant may also be ejected if he threatens to kill the landowner, which is not good, of course.

The purpose of the law is to show to the landowner and the tenant that the so-called "tenant" is not a slave, whom the landowner can dismiss outright without sufficient cause or reason. Do you know the meaning of the word "tenant"? "Tenant" means a partner of the landowner on the land being tilled; a partner in the possession and cultivation of the land; and a partner in the care of, and in the profits from, the land. That is the meaning of the word "tenant". Therefore, the law wishes to show that the farmer and the landowner are on equal footing. As long as the

farmer performs his duties, he cannot be ejected by the landowner. Hence, it can now be said that the farmer in the Philippines seemingly owns the land he tills and he cannot be dismissed as long as he cultivates it properly.

On the other hand, the farmer can leave the land he is tilling if he so desires, and the landowner cannot stop him. The reason behind this is that the landowner would not die of hunger even if no one worked on his land.

The duty of the Government is to see to it that the farm worker does not die of hunger. That is the reason why you have been granted the right not to be replaced by others at the pleasure of your employers. The landowner cannot dismiss you whenever he does not have the right to do so. That is a matter of great import. It is not only the farmer himself who has a right to work on the land he cultivates, but also his children, because they cannot simply be ousted without the just cause even if he, the farmer, is gone. Therefore, in the division of the harvest on a certain piece of land, the landowner cannot simply give the tenant a share which is less than half of the entire crop. That cannot be done. That cannot be done.

All should understand that the Government is now taking a big hand on matters affecting tenancy relations, and if anything be required which the Government should do and which would not be injurious to the rights of the landowners yet be beneficial to the farmers, we would do it. In the Philippines all should remember that the well-being of the farmers not only will mean their amelioration but also bring about the welfare of the entire country.

The Filipino people do not exist simply because of the attorneys and the physicians; on the other hand, these men live on fees they receive from the people. Furthermore, they do not produce anything for our existence. The farmer is the one that gives us all our necessities in life. The moment we are bereft of farm workers, then however large our domain, or rich we are, or numerous our lawyers, presidents and doctors, still we shall die of hunger; we shall not amount to anything. (Applause.)

Evidently, the very source of our livelihood are the farmers and not merely the land which, if neglected by us, will not produce anything except thorny weeds that would hurt our feet. The land gives existence to those who work on it. If these people do not find amelioration in agriculture, what they will do is seek other work. They will neglect the farm and look for other means of employment. If, on being unable to find any means of livelihood, they encounter hunger and privations, they will realize that their existence is worthless. Consequently all would feel miserable because we all would encounter hardships. What would happen to our country if the poor should no longer work on what they ought to? They would no longer recognize the force and effectivity of the laws; in their misery, they would no longer consider anything good except the employment of physical force so as to obtain the reward for their labor.

We Filipinos will soon have independence. We cannot rely upon anyone to defend our lives and all that is ours except upon ourselves alone. It is incumbent upon every Filipino, therefore, to be prepared to defend his country in the interest of his race, even if it meant his death. That very feeling for the defense of our country should be inherent in all citizens who love their motherland. And for the poor to defend his country, it is necessary that he enjoy economic amelioration which is the true reward for, or result of, his labor and sacrifice. It is also necessary that he understand and feel that he is being aided by the Government in the protection of his rights and prerogatives; that his country is giving him happiness; and that he does not exist as a mere slave. (Applause.)

If the citizens do not experience anything in their own country except poverty, how can they love their land, and why should they defend and die for it in time of danger? To a poor man who is being oppressed and denied happiness by his countrymen, what will he care if his own country be conquered by another, as for instance, by Japan, America, England, or by Germany? If he is being oppressed by his countrymen, what sacrifice can we expect of him for his own country? The Filipinos love their country. If we desire every Filipino to defend his country, it is necessary that he enjoy some ease in his native land. We ought to show and give him what he deserves, because if he receives aid in the interest of his existence and his rights are enforced and respected, he will not only learn to love his country, but also shed his blood and sacrifice his life, if need be, in defending the honor, the dignity, and the freedom of his race! (Applause.)

During these days when the Government is compelling every boy or young man to be trained in the use of firearms, all—be they sons of the poor or of the rich—are being sent to the cadres and taught how to handle a gun. What is the reason for this? So that when the time comes for us to defend the Philippines, we shall have enough men who know not only how to die but also how to kill! (Applause.) If these sons of the poor to whom we give rifles and whom we teach how to kill do not enjoy comfort in their existence, how can we expect them to defend their native land or their Government which does not dispense justice to them? So, I am telling every Filipino to protect and support the poor. If the poor see that they are attended to by their countrymen, these very poor people will—on the day that our nation encounters an emergency—protect our country and sacrifice their lives for us all! (Applause.)

It would not matter if we all suffered. If we see that the tenant and the landowner are equally undergoing privations, then the farmer has no right to complain even if he also suffers. But as long as the tenant finds that his debts are increasing year by year, while the house of the landowner gets bigger and bigger, how will he feel satisfied in that case? But it would not matter at all if we were all suffering. We are all ready to undergo hardships.

It is being said by some of our capitalists that if we raise the wages, such would eventually prejudice us all because the day will come when we shall not be able to export any of our products or articles, for our selling prices will be very high due to our high production expenses. They say that should that be the case, all would starve or beg. I have been telling them that inasmuch as the capitalists make considerable earnings or profits, there is no reason for not increasing the wages of our laborers. Of course, if the laborers see that all of us are in dire straits, they will agree to a reduction in their wages. The Filipino is not a fool. There are many Filipinos who do not even know how to read, but when enlightened upon any right they accept and value it. But if you tell them to be content with their meager wages, while they see that you are prosperous, that you dress luxuriously and live in plenty, they will not listen to you.

Before concluding, I wish to say this: I do not want our labor leaders to become habituated into telling you, the laborers, that you should not depend anymore upon the Government or upon the help of anyone. Nor do I wish them to tell you to feel ill toward our capitalists or landowners. Also I do not want you, who work on the land or in factories, to regard the capitalists and landowners as your enemies. No! The good landowner or capitalist is not your enemy; instead, he is your helpmate.

I wish to impress in your minds and implant in your hearts that the capitalist or the landowner can not live if there are no laborers; and, likewise, that the laborer cannot exist without the landowners or capitalists. This is our land and all of us have equal rights to live on it. We can not remain in peace if some live in prosperity while others suffer hunger and misery. Hence we need to cooperate together because we cannot live without cooperation. It should be remembered by the landowner that the man who works on his farm is a Filipino like himself. And it should also be remembered by the laborer that our economic situation will not improve unless we can agree among ourselves. But our agreement should not be based on the might of a few and the weakness of others. It should be founded on the welfare of everyone. Our agreement should never be based on the idea of grabbing the property of another.

You, the laborers, must continue in your efforts to use your rights. The Government will not oppose you in your efforts to improve your lot; rather, it will help you the more. Only you must not employ force; do not be abusive, because while I am against oppression by landowners, I am likewise adverse to your abuses, (Laughter.) Sometimes, whenever laborers join together and become united they feel proud of their strength to the extent of committing abuses, so much so that they even almost defy the authorities. They should not do that; instead, they should respect the rights of all and give due regard to the authorities.

Countrymen, I am talking before you not simply as President of our country. I am speaking as your countryman and as a being who feels what you feel, who desires what you desire. Our common welfare will never come from animosities; nor from our desire to commit wrong against our fellow being. The welfare of all depends upon the efforts of, and the cooperation between, the rich and the poor towards their common good.

Countrymen, I am here today not to solicit your votes, as Governor Cecilio has made you understand, but to inform you that what I wish to see is the early coming of the day when no one here in our country will ever say that he is living in misery because he is being oppressed by his fellow being. That only is what I wish to see before I die.

At present, a tenant has a right not to be driven away from the land he is tilling, whenever he complies with the provisions of the contract which he signed before receiving the land to be cultivated. The day will come, which I hope is not far off, when all the filers of the soil in the Philippines shall be the very owners of the land they cultivate. If the remedy for your present situation were only in my hands, I would have given it to you even now. However, it is not in my hands, but in our Government's. We cannot simply get anybody's land without proper payment. The Government does not have sufficient funds to pay for the haciendas in the Philippines, which it should buy for resale to you. However, they will gradually come into our possession. I am hoping that before the lapse of fifteen or twenty years, all big estates in the Philippines would disappear. The lands here would be subdivided, and the industrious and the lover of work would have his own land to cultivate. But for this to happen, it is necessary that we must first have peace, in order not to curtail but to continue, instead, the progress of the Philippines. Secondly, it is necessary that the Government respect the property of the owners, as well as the lands of the landed gentry, and not wrest those away from them without due payment to be sold to the workers.

I dream of the coming of the day here in the Philippines when there shall be no more persons who can be considered as really poor. I do not care to have millionaires here. Millionaires render no help to our country. What is necessary is for us all to enjoy prosperity, because in a country where only a few are prosperous, disorder usually reigns. The day will come when we shall be independent. If all those who till the soil have their own land to work on, then whatever disaster may happen to our country, those very workers would risk their lives in the defense of their country, because all of them have properties to protect.

Countrymen, there are countries in Europe where the people are neither very rich nor very poor. That is the very situation which I am expecting to occur here. But no government can do that within twenty-four hours. If the construction of a mere cottage needs a month or so, how much more time would be necessary to realize our great desire? Hence, it is necessary for you to have a little patience, and to have a bit of faith in our Government. We should help each other, and I hope that it will not take long before my dream is realized.

Countrymen, I thank you all for the great honor you have bestowed upon me in welcoming me on this occasion. (Applause.)

From Messages of the President, Vol. 5, Part I, pp. 147-157.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Quezon before 10,000 Farmers in San Fernando on the Occasion of Rice Planting Festival, July 18, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before 10,000 Farmers in San Fernando on the Occasion of Rice Planting Festival**

[Delivered in San Fernando, Pampanga, July 18, 1939]

**PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE AND THE RICE PLANTING
FESTIVAL**

Peace must be based upon the conviction that we are under a government that dispenses justice to all, to those above and to those below to the rich and to the poor, and to the powerful and to the humble.

I am for the poor not because I want applause but because my heart is really with them.

Let us then unite in this idea: work, justice and peace with independence and freedom.

Peace is the basic foundation of democracy. Without peace, life is only a burden and men can do nothing either for their country or for themselves. But peace must be based on justice. Peace must be based upon the conviction that we are under a government that dispenses justice to all, to those above and to those below, to the rich and to the poor, and to the powerful and to the humble.

But as long as the government represented by the officials you elected is legally constituted, it is your duty to support the government.

The Government of the Philippines is your government. It was not imposed on you. Its officials were either elected by you or appointed in accordance with your Constitution. It is, therefore, I repeat, your duty to support that government and, if you are not satisfied, it is your privilege to change it. This is democracy; this is the rule of the people, for the people and by the people.

What I saw here today (farm laborers, both men and women armed with working implements for the fields, and escorted by the Legion of Peace) opened my eyes to a vision of the future of our country. It means your love for work, your consciousness that work is dignified and that work can only be performed in peace even to the extent of organizing yourselves against the forces of disorder. Never before was I so proud of the people of Pampanga than on this day.

The whole country should be organized as one legion of peace and for peace.

I am here to do honor to labor by attending your rice planting festival. Here you have shown me you want peace and to support the government in maintaining that peace. I assure you that there shall be peace based on justice. Have faith in the government. I want you to know what the government is trying to do and trying to accomplish.

This is not a government for the capitalists or against the capitalists, neither is it a government of the workingman against the capitalist. This is a government of right. I am ready to fight the world for the right of workers but I would not stand by them when they are wrong. Don't believe labor leaders who tell you can do anything you want. I will

be on your side when you are right but I will not stand by you when you do wrong. I have a duty to perform and an oath to fulfill. I propose to do that duty regardless of the consequences for myself. I am for the poor not because I want applause but because my heart is really with them.

Let us then unite in this idea; work, justice and peace with independence and freedom.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on benefits derived from the Coconut Oil Excise Tax, July 23, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE COCONUT OIL EXCISE TAX

[Delivered at Atimonan, Tayabas, on July 23, 1939]

Countrymen:

I regret to have promised you an after-dinner speech because I feel that we need instead a rest to avoid any indigestion. But as I always comply with my promises, so I shall now speak. I am greatly pleased to see that native dances and songs have been featured in our program today. I wish that we, the Filipinos, would accustom ourselves to gatherings like this, where we can observe our traditions and old customs, and not merely indulge in things foreign. Our dances have their natural grace; our music and songs are harbingers of melody, especially so when the singers are gifted like those whom we have just heard. Allow me now to speak about the excise tax.

In my speech this morning I mentioned abacá as a product which does not pay any excise tax, yet its price is much lower than that of copra. This shows that the price of a product is not governed by the tax. We also pay an excise tax on our sugar, but this industry, as you already know, is enriching the owners of centrals and the planters, who are the landowners. If the excise tax really reduces the price of a product, then that of sugar should also be similarly reduced. But this is not so. The truth of the matter is that the tax is paid by the consumer and not by the vendor.

As an specific illustration, we can cite the case of diamonds which come from Paris and are taxed upon entering the Philippines. Who do you think pays the tax? The diamond merchant actually pays the tax with the Collector of Internal Revenue, but he will get back what he has paid over when he makes a sale of the diamonds. For instance, he purchases the diamonds in Paris for P100; and when he subsequently sells them here, he adds to the purchase price his expenses for transportation and internal revenue tax as well as his profit. Hence, it is the consumer and not the merchant who really pays the tax and other expenses incident to the importation of diamonds here.

This actually happens in the case of the excise tax. The American consumers of soap manufactured from oil extracted from our copra are the ones who pay the tax. If there are no other countries where copra could be purchased—although the truth is that oil of the same grade as ours can be obtained from other nations—they would be obliged, even if the excise tax were increased to buy our oil if it is what they specifically need in the manufacture of soap.

In the past our abacá commanded a high price; but because of the Sumatra abacá, which competes with our product, and of an overproduction of hemp in the Philippines, its price today has gone down. There are furthermore other fibers which are not as good as our abacá, yet are capable of being utilized in the manufacture of ropes; hence, when our price increases, purchasers of fibers for rope manufacture are forced to buy from other places the commodity whose quality does not equal that of our abacá. This is one of the causes why our abaca commands a low price, although it does not pay an excise tax.

As I have previously stated, the price of our exports is not fixed in the Philippines; on the contrary, foreign consumers pay us a price equal to what they pay for the same products obtainable in other places. In short, we have neither power and influence nor a system that will be effective enough to induce foreigners to buy our exports at the

price we quote; such as, for instance, abaca at P30, copra at P12, and sugar at P30. The price of our products follows the trend of prices of products of the same kind in other parts of the world.

Our tobacco does not pay any excise tax in America, yet its present price is much lower than that of copra. Despite this low price, however, tobacco exporters are comparatively better off than our copra or sugar exporters. The condition of the copra exporter is not so appalling; for, although copra does not command a high price now, we still obtain a little profit out of it.

The other day I met Justice Imperial who owns both coconut and abaca plantations in Albay. He told me that he has obtained more income from his coconut than from his abacá plantation. But, for the sake of argument, even admitting that the elimination of the excise tax would bring contentment to you, what reason should I have not to extend the necessary aid—if I could give it—to you, coconut planters? You all know that there are more coconut planters than sugar planters in the Philippines. But if I could help the sugar planters, why should I not also aid the coconut planters? I am not a native of Negros; I have no sugar plantation there; and I am under no moral obligation to the people of Negros, nor do I owe them a debt of gratitude. I am a native of Tayabas. I owe you, my countrymen who live here, a debt of gratitude. Why should I not extend to you any aid? I should like to explain this situation.

I have just overheard in a conversation here that I am a candidate for reelection. It has become a persistent rumor, but personally I feel that I am through now with politics; hence nobody has the right to suppose that I am explaining these things to you to court your favor. That is not the motive. Whatever I am doing now is not for election purposes. Nobody can claim that I still need the gratitude of my people. I am telling you this fact as I want you to understand that I am not putting one over you. According to law, my term of office expires in 1941. So what I am doing now has no reference to politics, and much less to court the people's favor, because I shall soon be out of my position.

Some people say that Tayabas has not received any benefit from the excise tax. But note the things being done today for this province. Where does the money being expended for all these projects come from? Certainly, it does not come from my pocket nor from the coffers of the Province of Tayabas, but from funds derived from the excise tax. That is the truth. You will soon have a road from San Narciso to Pitogo, which, perhaps, will be extended as far as Bondo. For this project we shall spend the money from the excise tax.

Assemblyman Lavides has requested the construction of the road connecting Padre Burgos with Malikbo. Although the railroad is already there, the road will still be constructed. In doing this for Tayabas, where will I get the money? From the excise tax, of course. Were it not for the refunds from the excise tax, your taxes would have been increased by 100 per cent or as much as 150 per cent, before we could have wide roads where automobiles can safely pass one another.

You, people from Infanta who ride in automobiles every hour of the day, when would you have thought of owning cars if you did not have these roads which were constructed with the money from the excise tax? In the past it took you a week or more to reach Manila. But at present, thanks to the excise tax, you now journey back and forth with ease and facility.

To my townmates from Baler, who also use the automobile in their trips, I ask this: Where does the money being spent for the construction of your wide roads come? Is it not from the excise tax? It is true that in the distribution of government funds, I do not give the welfare of my province any preference, for I am a man with shame. I do not do what others are doing, because my duty is to govern all provinces and not merely one. And in aiding my province while helping the others, I first let the other provinces have their funds, and afterwards I secure money for the welfare of Tayabas. [*Applause.*]

There is an island in the Philippines which we can bestow upon our children and descendants. I am referring to Mindanao. Before I became President of the Philippines, people in Mindanao had never dared to leave the limits of their towns without constabulary escorts. This was particularly true during the American military regime when travelers were escorted by companies of armed soldiers in their trips to Dansalan and other points of Mindanao. Traveling in Lanao, Cotabato, and other Moro provinces took not only days to accomplish but also the lives of men

who braved the dangers that lurked on the way, particularly the peril from the Moros and the dangers from the ravages of diseases.

When I visited Mindanao after my election to the presidency, I found that there were no roads from Lanao to Cotabato and from Cotabato to Davao. But it is very different now. On my last visit I rode in an automobile from Lanao to Cotabato, and from there to Davao. From the highways I traversed, I noticed that the former woodlands are now peopled by many of our countrymen who have built their houses and cleared the forests and converted them into rice fields. Mindanao is no longer the boundless forest that was ravaged by malaria, but the land of promise where people actually reap prosperous benefit. My question now is: Where do we get the appropriations for opening Mindanao? From the excise tax, of course.

I can really say that the Filipinos are a fortunate people. If the Congress of the United States had not devised the excise tax and provided for the return of the collections to us, many years perhaps would pass before we could develop Mindanao. I have the premonition that if Mindanao is not occupied and inhabited by Filipinos, aliens would colonize and develop it for us and eventually wrest it from our hands. But I have high hopes that the islands would be peopled by a sufficient number of Filipinos, so that, in the long run, it would become a patrimony of our children and their descendants. All this would be possible with the aid we get from the coconut oil excise tax.

We do not derive any benefit from the tax imposed on our sugar production since the collection, although it is said that it will be returned to us, has not been credited to the Philippines yet. On the other hand, the excise tax on coconut oil will continue to benefit us as long as it affords us something for expenditures. That is why I should like to ask you my province-mates, to tell me, after hearing me discourse on this subject, whether it would be just on your part to blame me for the imposition of the excise tax on coconut oil.

I will clarify what really occurred in this connection. From the beginning. I opposed the plan to tax our industries which Congress had conceived. I went to America and presented my opposition to the proposal before the President of the United States. I induced him to send a message to the Congress expressing the opposition of the Philippines. But, despite our joint opposition, the Congress approved the measure.

It is not true that Vice-President Osmeña did not help oppose the imposition of this tax. Do you think that Mr. Osmeña would do something other than what he had been bidden? The position of the Vice-President of the Commonwealth is entirely different from that which he held when he and Roxas composed the Osmeña-Roxas mission that worked in favor of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting bill. Mr. Osmeña has a different function now; he can not do anything other than what is bidden him.

Vice-President Osmeña as my representative in the United States, had worked for the repeal of the law; but as he later informed me, he could not do away with the excise tax; hence he did not press further his opposition. For my own part, I also did not go any further in opposing the measure, because I knew then that I could not do anything worthy. I preferred to keep silent, although I could have talked more about it in order to please you and make you believe that I really opposed the excise tax.

You should know that it is not the excise tax that has reduced the price of copra, but the present over-supply of copra in the world markets, while the buyers have not comparatively increased in number. This is also true in the case of other products. For instance, you have twenty hats to sell to only five buyers; consequently, they will offer a low price, for they find the supply much greater than the demand.

During the World War, the price of sugar soared to its highest peak. Java alone sold an unprecedented total of 4,000,000 tons of sugar to the warring countries that were not sugar-producing nations. The effect of this artificial business boom is now being felt, for due to the small demand for sugar which can be easily met by the oversupply, the price has become low. Hence, Java lost almost seven-eighths of her original production of 4,000,000 tons of sugar, because at present only one-half million tons of sugar have been allocated to her. So you can imagine how many people have lost their jobs in Java, while in the Philippines, thank God! this unfortunate situation has not occurred.

Although they say that we have an excise tax that we cannot do away with, yet you should consider the benefits we derive from our highways, which would not have been built were it not for the excise-tax money. Roads, as you know, not only help in increasing the price of your products, but also add a good deal of profit to the farmer. For example, you have copra to sell at P4.00; but if a good road is not accessible over which to transport your product to the market or warehouse, a big amount has to be reduced from your selling price to cover transportation expenses. Now that you have wide roads, you will have to spend only very little to bring your products to the market. So you should consider the benefits derived from good roads.

It is likewise true that we have established the Agricultural and Industrial Bank. This bank will grant loans to farmers at low rates of interest. In the past, you had paid the Hogar Filipino as much as 17 per cent for interest, because you, Tayabenses, had depended then on that mutual and loan building association. Later on you borrowed money from our banks at 12 per cent interest. Today, you can borrow money at a rate of interest as low as 5 per cent, and pay your loan within a long period.

I will now bare my feelings before you. I am really sorry to hear the rumors circulating here, not that I fear they would prejudice me or reduce the number of my votes, because I am not a candidate. Although my reelection is rumored to have been planned, yet it will no longer be of value to me, because I do not desire to be a chief magistrate again. I have not, however, taken to heart the rumors that I have heard around here. I feel so because I cannot prevent, you from loving me. And I am no longer a candidate. Yet the realization that I am loved by my countrymen is still important to me, and I should not like such affection to wane simply because of misleading imputations. This is the very reason why I am sacrificing much in serving the country. Of course, I have also gained by, and profited from, the high position you bestowed upon me—your love. I have been made extremely happy by the knowledge that you really love me, and I have no other desire than to make a proud bestowal of such public affection on my children, during the remaining days of my life. [*Applause.*] I have not regarded anything as glorious as your affection for me.

What I really feel most and which give me heartaches are the rumors coming from the citizens of my province that I am not working for their welfare, because I am only busy doing things for my own good. I have taken these rumors very badly.

I am informing you that it is not only Tayabas but also other provinces, as Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Bohol, Leyte, and Samar, which are dependent upon their coconut products. I have just come from my third visit to Bohol. In my second visit, I reached only as far as Tagbilaran, the provincial capital. My last visit enabled me to reach several municipalities in the interior. And I can proudly inform you that, although they had not seen me personally in the past, the children who welcomed me and whom I met on the streets, shouted my name: “President Quezon! President Quezon!” They knew me by name, and they were happy to see me in person. I understand that they are familiar with my name because they were told of it by their parents, who know the good things that I have done for my country. My fatigue vanished when I saw that they were really glad to see me. The fact indicates that despite the remoteness of those municipalities, the people there appraise the good things I have done while in the service of my country. Otherwise, I should not have heard such kind words and praises from them.

I am not at all surprised to hear shouts of “Mabuhay” from my colleagues in the party; but what really touches me and makes me very happy is hearing the voice of small children greeting me and shouting my name.

What I wish of you, if you could afford to do so, is to take stock of my deeds, which, although not very great, are nevertheless manifestations of my ardent desire to serve the nation. If I see in my province the same manifestations of love as those bestowed upon me in the other provinces I visited, then my heart will be more than gratified, because for me there could be no happiness greater than the knowledge that although I am loved by the people from other provinces, nevertheless the citizens of my province love me more! [*Prolonged applause and shouts of “Long live President Quezon.”*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the Inauguration of the Quezon National Park, July 23, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On effect of the excise tax on Coconut Oil on the people of Tayabas**

[Delivered at the inauguration of the Quezon National Park at
Atimonan, Tayabas, on July 23, 1939]

My Countrymen:

While still on the highway passing through Calawang, I made up my mind to postpone what I was to say in my after-luncheon speech today. I will, therefore, only thank you, people of Tayabas, and the provincial officials for the significance you have attached to this commemorative tablet.

When I was invited by the Provincial Board and the Assemblyman from the second district to visit Tayabas, I had the impression that only a picnic would be held. In the program, however, I read that this is the occasion for the inauguration of the National Park; so I asked myself if I were out of my senses, because I have always understood that an inauguration is the formal opening for public use of the thing inaugurated. How can these roads be given an inauguration when we have been long using and passing through them? Is that not strange? However, when I saw the condition of your highways today, I knew that you have every reason for this inauguration.

The truth is, even in those days when I frequently passed here, I had found traveling over these highways quite risky. When I last passed through them two years ago, I had thought then of removing the District Engineer of Tayabas from his post, owing to the bad narrow condition of the roads which naturally endangered people's lives. I had thought also that the Provincial Board, which also decides upon such matters, had allowed them to remain unrepaired.

As you have always known me to be a person who never puts aside his plans, I, therefore, immediately called the Governor and informed him about the condition of these roads. I had thought then that miracles could no longer be performed on earth. But I was mistaken for your Governor and your District Engineer did miracles, else these highways would not have been completed in so short a time. Were it not that I have already the Honorable Cuenco as my Secretary of Public Works and Communications. I would perhaps elevate Engineer Diaz to that position. But the Honorable Cuenco, who is a good Secretary, administers his department well. We will, therefore, appoint Diaz later, and I shall fulfill this promise when I am no longer President. I do hope Diaz does not harbor any ill-feeling concerning my promise which is not different from the promise of a candidate who, so as to be allowed to present his candidacy, promises not to make any bid for the next election; but who, when that succeeding election comes, forgets the promise he has made.

I am pleased to tell you that the Provincial Board and the District Engineer have done excellent work on these roads. But, however excellent your roads are, they could not have been constructed through the help of heaven, or just because these officials wished it so, if there have not been any funds.

The Province of Tayabas, as you know, does not have sufficient funds today, because of the big fall in the price of our agricultural product—the coconut. The prevailing low price is also responsible for the fall in the revenues from taxes collected on real property. So, if this province had merely depended on its tax collections, these roads would not have been built, as well as the other national highways now under construction.

Do you know the source of the funds that we are spending in Tayabas today? They come from the excise tax on coconut oil. I know that many persons in our province blame me for the excise tax. This is the point I wish to clarify today; but as we have not had our lunch as yet, and it would be bad for us to have an indigestion, I shall speak about

the excise tax after our luncheon. However, before I make my explanation, I wish my hearers to contemplate if the excise tax is prejudicial to the people of Tayabas and if it is true that its removal lies in my hands.

Why should I not oppose the imposition of the tax if it would bring economic ruin to Tayabas? Since you have not done anything wrong against me, why should I wish then to see my province suffer? Have I done something beneficial which has not brought good tidings to the people of Tayabas? On the other hand, if the excise tax is not removed, would I get any benefit? There is, therefore, no justifiable motive that could make me wish my people to undergo financial sufferings because I owe them favors as well as my position.

It is my honest opinion that, before believing in any rumors, you should first consider carefully if President Quezon has ever done anything detrimental to his province, or if President Quezon has done something helpful to other provinces but not to Tayabas.

If what I am doing now is beneficial to the majority of the people of the Philippines, why should there be countrymen who will still have ill feelings towards me? I understand that my provincemates are undergoing difficulties; if this be true, then we, the few, must know how to suffer and sacrifice for the sake of the welfare of the majority. If you recognize me as the President of the Philippines, you should bear in mind that my services are not only for you, people of Tayabas, but also for the entire nation. I am duty-bound to render services that will be of benefit to all Filipinos.

It is not true that the excise tax will ruin Tayabas while it will greatly assist the rest of the country.

Contrary to the prevailing belief. I did not originate the excise tax; instead, it has come to us as an imposition of Congress. Although in the beginning of its legislation, I had enlisted the aid of President Roosevelt in my opposition to the excise tax, nevertheless Congress approved it. Other persons said that I sent Floor Leader Paredes to America to help work for the suspension of the enforcement of the tax. Paredes, however, was not there yet when the proper Senate committee discussed this matter, which resulted in the shelving of the bill abolishing the excise tax. The rumors which you heard that a Senate committee had already removed the tax were, therefore, all untrue.

I knew also that President Roosevelt had informed the proper committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the tax would work difficulties to four million Filipinos. But the American legislators saw that the price of copra went up soon after the excise tax was imposed, and it convinced Congress that the excise tax not only would not lower the price of copra but also would prove beneficial to the Filipinos.

In 1933 copra sold at over P12 or P13 a picul. We already had the excise tax then. If the real reason for the fall in copra prices were the excise tax, why had the price still gone up then? The tax, therefore, is not detrimental to our coconut oil.

I asked the proper authorities for data on the quantity of copra being produced in Tayabas on which the excise tax is levied. Since I have not received the report yet, I shall explain the whole matter to you later. However I wish you to know that it is not only our copra but also our sugar which has an excise tax. As for abacá, its price has gone down much lower than that of copra. Abaca has no excise tax. Yet the profit it gave to abacá growers was greater than that derived by coconut planters from their products at the time that the excise tax was not yet imposed on any crop grown here. Why, then, should you blame me for the excise tax on coconut oil?

You must bear in mind that the American Government has the authority to collect an excise tax on any and all products exported to the United States. The truth is that in the Philippines we are charging an internal revenue tax on American products sold here. The only difference is this: the internal revenue tax exacted on American goods sold in the Philippines is retained by us, and we either keep it or spend it; but the excise tax collected by the United States on our coconut oil exportation is returned to us, and we also freely use or spend that money.

I am being blamed for the existence of the excise tax; but my critics refuse to admit that the excise tax collections are being returned to the Philippines for us to spend in the development of our country. This whole thing appears to be a riddle: if a thing is bad, it is done by me; if it is good, it is the work of another. *[Applause.]*

On the day we acquire our independence, the excise tax will still be collected by the American government from our coconut oil exports, but the collections will thenceforward be retained by Congress. If we, the Filipino people and the Filipino nation, think that we cannot survive because on whatever we would export to other countries would be levied an excise tax, we would surely meet our economic death, for which we must, even today, prepare our coffin. Only a few years are left before the grant of our independence. Do not delude yourselves with the idea that, when we are already independent, we can still expect the government of a country, to which we export our products, not to charge any excise tax or tariff duty on them.

My countrymen, if we wish to sell our products to a foreign country, we must pay a tariff duty or an excise tax, just as we exact a tariff duty and charge an internal revenue tax on all goods and products imported into the Philippines. But if you insist that we can exist here even if we are not charged an excise tax then we cannot export anything. Again, if we should insist upon making our countrymen believe that life or death in the Philippines depends on the excise tax, then we must all be wrong. As long as we sell our products to foreign countries, we will be subject to tariff duties and internal revenue taxes.

The Filipino must be taught to be self-reliant. We must know that we can realize profits if we have exportation, and we export those products which will give us profit even if a tariff duty or excise tax is levied. That is what we should ponder upon. Hence we must look for other native products which we can profitably sell abroad, even if they are levied a tariff duty or an excise tax.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Constitutional Amendments regarding Presidential Tenure, Revival of the Senate, and establishment of Office to Enforce the Election Law, August 16, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Constitutional Amendments regarding Presidential Tenure, Revival of the Senate, and establishment of
Office to Enforce the Election Law**

[Delivered on August 16, 1939]

Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

As you are convened in special session to consider amendments to the Constitution, I deem it appropriate to address you upon certain proposals which have engaged the attention of our people and upon which the Nationalist Party, in national convention assembled, has taken a positive and definite stand. I refer to the proposed amendments regarding the term of office of the President and the creation of a Senate elected at large.

The question of amending the Constitution is a very serious matter requiring most careful deliberation. The Constitution is the highest expression of the people's will. It is the supreme law of the land; and the organic law of the State. It sets up the framework of the whole Government. Unlike ordinary legislation, it must be considered as permanent in character and should not be subjected to the transient changes of the public mind. But while the Constitution should not be amended unless there are powerful reasons demanding such action, it would be most unwise to attach to that instrument the character of immutability generally attributed to the laws of the Medes and Persians. Social and political conditions are dynamic, and a constitution, like a living organism, should be adapted to the changing social and political order. The essence of constitutional government in a democracy is not that the Constitution remain the same for all time, but that all constitutional changes be effected only in the manner prescribed by the constitution itself.

Linked with the proposal to amend the Constitution regarding the term of office of the President is the movement to induce me to become a candidate for reelection.

It would be of no avail to ignore the fact that the idea of amending the Constitution in this respect was originally conceived and advanced for the only purpose of permitting my reelection. Since the beginning of my administration I have been receiving insistent requests from different elements of our population to have me consent to run for a second term. Municipal councils, provincial boards, labor unions, civic associations, and other political and social entities have passed resolutions endorsing the movement to secure my reelection. The Nationalist Party, to which almost every election official of the national and local governments belongs, held a national convention last month and, with practical unanimity, urged the amendment of the Constitution so as to permit my continuance in office for another term. Quite a large number of members of this Assembly have repeatedly expressed themselves in favor of my reelection. On the occasion of my visits to the various provinces, cities, and municipalities throughout the country, I had been received with public demonstrations evincing a desire on the part of the people to have me continue in office. All these manifestations of public sentiment have created a general impression that a large majority of our people are in favor of amending the Constitution in order to permit my reelection. It is hardly necessary for me to say that these generous expressions of popular approval and appreciation which, rather than as personal tributes to myself, I take as evidences of public support of the policies of my administration and of the efforts that I have exerted to promote the general welfare, have touched me very deeply and filled my heart with profound gratitude.

It is of vital importance that amendments to the Constitution be considered upon the high plane of principles rather than upon considerations of personal character. And in order that your action on the proposed constitutional Amendment regarding the term of office of the President may not be influenced by the movement for my reelection, I desire to make my position clear on this matter.

From the very beginning I have tried to discourage any attempt to make way for my reelection. I must confess that, at first, I did this for reasons of personal preference or inclination—the longing to retire to private life with all the joys that it holds forth to a man who has been in the public service continuously for well-nigh forty years. Later on, however, when I realized that the movement to have me continue in office had rapidly gained ground, I felt that only considerations of public interest should be allowed to sway my decision on the question. The welfare of our nation was then, as it is now, my prime concern. Consequently, I gave the matter my deepest thought and most careful deliberation in the spirit of a dutiful citizen who is ever willing and glad to serve his country regardless of the consequences to himself and his family. I sought guidance from the teachings of history. I tried to visualize the prevailing conditions in our country and essayed to scan the future in an effort to find the right course to pursue. I weighed all the arguments advanced for and against my continuance in office beyond my term of six years. And I have come to the conclusion that, from the standpoint of the promotion of democracy and liberty in our country, the wholesome effect of my retirement at the end of my present term will far outweigh whatever benefits that might be derived from my continuance in office beyond this term.

Fortunately, the affairs of our nation are such as to justify confidence in the future stability of our Government. Law and order prevail throughout the land. The different parts of the program which I had set out to accomplish upon taking the reins of government are either completed or in the process of completion. The Government of the Commonwealth is fully organized. Our trade and other relations with the United States are on the way to a final and satisfactory settlement. We have initiated the work of economic planning and development and have stimulated wealth production to augment the national income. We have set out finances on order and have insured increasing revenues for the support of essential public services. We are rapidly building up a system of national defense that should prove adequate to safeguard our national security. We have established wholesome precedents in the government that should assure competency, honesty, and economy in administration and a just and efficient use of governmental powers. We have defined the basis of relationship between capital and labor, and have created the machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes and for the protection of the rights of the working man. Social justice has been advanced and we have set in motion powerful human forces that should bring about the attainment of our social objectives. What remains to be done can well be performed under the leadership of other men who may be elected to succeed me.

I have carefully considered the suggestion made by those who favor my reelection that to insure our country's welfare we should maintain the unity of our people and that I am, perhaps, in a better position than anyone else at this time to maintain that unity. Nothing gives me more concern than the possibility of our people being divided into two or more political camps at this critical period in our history, when divided counsel and antagonistic efforts may bring fatal consequences to the nation. But I have enough faith in the intelligence and patriotism of our people to believe that they will not fail to see the dangers of partisan strife, that reason rather than passion will rule their conduct, and that they will not allow our national solidarity to disintegrate.

A single thought has given me the gravest preoccupation in connection with the proposal to amend the Constitution so as to permit my reelection. It is the dangerous precedent that might be established in amending a constitutional or legal provision affecting a person in office, who is in a position to exert some influence in securing the amendment and allowing him to benefit by it. In the future, some ambitious and unscrupulous politician might invoke such a precedent in order to perpetuate himself in power. This would endanger the liberties of our people and I am horrified at the thought that I might in any way be the cause of the destruction of these liberties for which I had fought and to which I have consecrated my life.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, I have laid before you my attitude and views on the question of my reelection. With a keen sense of my responsibility and with the welfare of our people at heart, I wish to state frankly that if my present term of office is allowed to run its full length, I will consider my inescapable duty not to make myself available for reelection.

As I stated before you on a previous occasion, I shall be forced to become a candidate only if my present term of office is shortened, but I hope that this will not be done. No practical results can be obtained by keeping me in office for two years more. The proposal to shorten the term of office of the president from six to four years, if adopted, may be given a prospective effect so as not to disturb my present tenure.

In the light of the principles of democratic government, the term of six years fixed in the Constitution for the president would seem to be too long. The American Constitution provides for a four-year term only, without any limitation as to the number of times the incumbent may be reelected. This system seems to be more in harmony with democratic principles than the one we have adopted—a six-year old term without reelection. But I do not have any strong opinion in favor of one system as against the other. I am inclined to the belief that, considering the present existing conditions in our country, reelection should be prohibited if the six-year term is maintained, and if a four-year term be preferred, then only one reelection should be permitted.

I shall now turn to the question of the creation of a Senate. There are countries which have adopted a unicameral legislature, but even in these countries the establishment of the system has been viewed as an experiment. In the United States only one State has adopted the unicameral system. In this country our experience prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth had been with a bicameral legislature. The adoption of a unicameral legislature by the Constitutional Convention was not the result of a preconceived plan. On the contrary, the original report submitted by the Committee on Legislative Department of the Convention recommended a bicameral legislature with a Senate elected at large. The adoption of the unicameral system was merely due to an irreconcilable divergence of views among the members of the Convention as to the manner of electing the Senate, and not because of known or admitted evils of the bicameral system, nor on account of the pressure of public opinion.

In advocating the creation of a Senate, I do so with full appreciation of the excellent work of the National Assembly. It is only fair to state that a bicameral legislature could not have done better than this Assembly. But notwithstanding this fact I am convinced that in the long run it would be to the best interest of our country to have a bicameral instead of a unicameral legislature. The contention that a unicameral legislature is a forward stride in democratic government is premised on the theory that the second chamber represents not the people but special interests, such as the nobility, the church, the intellectual aristocracy, capital, or as it used to be in the United States, the several States of the Union. The proposed Senate, however, would be an elective body.

Before the establishment of the Commonwealth the senators were elected by senatorial districts; as now proposed they would be elected by the people at large. The two chambers, as contemplated, would have some separate functions. The lower house would express the sentiment of the people in the different localities of districts, and the Senate, the sentiment of the nation as a whole. The lower house would voice local interests and views, while the Senate would reflect the relative importance that the whole nation gives to such interests and views. The House would have the vision and aggressive enthusiasm of youth, while the actuations of the Senate would be tempered by the hard lessons of experience. Furthermore, the consequent double consideration and discussion of legislative measures would give opportunity for maturer judgment and the crystallization of public opinion. The passions of the moment would not easily sway the members of both houses at the same time. As the members of the Senate are to be elected at large, their perspective of national problems would be broad and discriminating. They would not represent provinces or districts, but the entire nation. They would, therefore, think and act not in regional but in national terms.

Moreover, the creation of a Senate elected at large will offer greater opportunity for the formation of national leaders. As the candidates for the Senate will have to be nominated by national political parties, the electoral campaign will be waged throughout the country on the basis of principles and not on personalities.

Lastly, by the creation of a Senate we will remedy a most dangerous defect in our Constitution with reference to impeachment. With a bicameral legislature, the House would initiate the proceedings and the Senate would try and pass judgment on the charges; whereas today, the National Assembly, through its Commission on Impeachment, is the accuser and also the judge when, as a body, it decides impeachment cases.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, in proposing that you share with another body the powers of legislation which now you alone exercise, I know that I am asking something which, because you are human, would be natural for you not to grant; but I beseech you to consider the question not as it affects you personally as members of this body, but as it concerns the paramount and enduring interests of our country.

Before closing, I consider this to be an appropriate occasion for me to submit for your serious consideration the need of safeguarding by constitutional provision the purity of the reelections. This is far more important than the question of whether or not a presidential reelection should be permitted. As long as elections are held at reasonable intervals and the people are permitted freely to elect the man whom they desire to entrust with the highest office of the land, self-government will remain unimpaired and democracy and liberty preserved in this country.

The provision embodied in the Constitution against the reelection of the President was prompted by the fear that an incumbent of that high office might use his great power to frustrate the will of the electorate. To preclude the possibility of any Chief Executive interfering with the elections, I propose that an office, independent of the Executive, be constitutionally created to take charge of the enforcement of the election law. Appointment to such an office should be for a definite term, and the incumbent should be removable only through impeachment or judicial proceedings.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly: May God give you light in your deliberations and may your decision be for the greater happiness and liberty of our people.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1939). [Constitutional Amendments regarding Presidential Tenure, revival of the Senate, and establishment of Office to Enforce the Election Law]. University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library.

Address of President Quezon on Democracy and Political Parties, August 19, 1939

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PARTIES

[Radio broadcast on the occasion of the observance of his 61st
birthday anniversary, delivered at Malacañan Palace
on August 19, 1939]

Acting High Commissioner Jones, General MacArthur,
Secretary Alunan, Secretary Aquino, Friends, and
Fellow Citizens:

The celebration of the anniversary of my birthday, not only throughout the Philippines but even abroad wherever Filipinos are found, fills my heart with unbounded gratitude. I am specially thankful to all those who are taking part in this celebration, particularly to Acting High Commissioner Jones and General MacArthur for their generous and complimentary remarks. I also give my thanks to all those who have contributed to the fund for the Philippine Antituberculosis Society, which is being raised on the occasion of my birthday. However unworthy I may be of this celebration, the cause which it promotes—the fight against the white plague—is certainly worthy of the efforts put forth and the financial assistance given by those who are participating in the programs of the day.

I now desire to ask of you, my beloved countrymen, to give me further evidence of your confidence and affection. More than ever, I need your help to carry to a successful termination the policies and plans of my administration. Above all, I want you to maintain and preserve our unity in purpose and coöperation in counsel.

When I speak of unity, I do not mean that we must all think alike, or that all must accept as gospel truth the opinions and ideas of the leader of the nation, or that everyone must follow blindly his advice. Freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of action are the most precious possessions of a free man. They are divine gifts without which man would fall in the category of a brute. But these inalienable rights have been given to us not only for the promotion of our personal welfare or the pursuit of our own happiness, but also for the welfare and happiness of our fellow men.

What I am condemning and counseling against is not differences of opinion honestly held and properly expressed, but division founded on partisan spirit; the belief that we must have different political parties, issues or no issues; that we must maintain opposing political organizations, platform or no platform, just so there may be an opposition party.

The theory that there can be no true democracy without political parties and that the existence of such parties is essential in popular government, is groundless and finds no justification in sound principles of government. It is true that under a democratic system of government different and opposing political parties spring up sooner or later. This becomes an eventuality because there is no stronger passion in the human heart than the love of power, and political parties are the means to attain power in a democracy; and, also, because people do not always agree as to the best methods of solving the vital problems of state. But parties founded on the love of power alone are the worst evils of democracy; and differences of opinion, in order to justify the organization of political parties, must arise from fundamental disagreements on political institutions, or on social or economic philosophies. Inasmuch as at present

there are no essential differences of opinion on these matters among our people there seems to be no reason for the existence of different political parties.

Since we regard America as our mentor in democracy, and since those of our countrymen who maintain that political parties are essential in a democracy merely repeat what they have heard from some Americans, it is pertinent to hear what George Washington said' on this subject in his farewell address:

"I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.

"This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stilled, controlled, or repressed, but in those of the popular form it is semi in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual, and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

"Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight), the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

"It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeebles the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another; foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the Government itself through the channels of party passion. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

"There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the Government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true; and in governments of a monarchical cast patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose; and there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest, instead of warming, it should consume."

Thus spoke George Washington to his people at a time when the conditions prevailing in America were similar to those existing in the Philippines today; so I am merely giving you the same counsel that the Father of the American Republic gave to his people under like circumstances.

Friends and fellow citizens: Once more I thank you for these new evidences of your goodwill and support. I pray God that He may bless us all.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on partisanship, national unity, and cooperation with the Government, August 20, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Partisanship, National Unity
and Cooperation with the Government**

[Delivered at the convention of the *Palihan ng Bayan* held at the Grand Opera House, Manila, on August 20, 1939]

President of the *Palihan ng Bayan*, respected wife of Speaker Yulo, my friends:

The honor bestowed upon me by the civic organization *Palihan ng Bayan* is one which I consider as the climax of other similar manifestations of personal appraisal attributed to me by my countrymen on the occasion of my birthday. I attach to this occasion an importance which is more than what I could express in words, not only because the members composing your association ascribe great significance to this gathering but also because the purposes of the *Palihan ng Bayan* are identical with those of similar organizations being defended by any Filipino who nurtures a love for his native land.

It is not only now but also quite long ago that I have been cognizant of the aims of the *Palihan ng Bayan*. I still remember that a few years ago, when the ex-president of this organization, my friend Mr. Godoy, visited me one time and showed me the by-laws of your association, he asked me if I had anything to say against its purposes. My reply to Mr. Godoy was that I could sign my name on the papers wherein those aims were written, because the members of your organization would really stand for those purposes, which I am confident you really do; and if our countrymen will cooperate in executing them, I hope that we will secure not only our cherished political freedom but also our economic self-sufficiency which would be for the welfare of all.

We have just heard from Mr. Godoy this morning the purpose of the *Palihan ng Bayan*. The same purposes are embodied in the by-laws of almost all the parties in the Philippines, hence we could subscribe to them. Those are the aims which make us remember the traditions of our forefathers because many of them were the ones followed by our elders: peace, cooperation, and the discovery of means to bring about the progress of the country. What else could we say that is not embodied in the purposes of your association and which would bring progress and welfare to the country? That is why I attach importance to this occasion wherein you honor me in conjunction with my birthday because I really subscribe to your purposes, and I hereby request all to follow them in order to make effective the steps towards coöperation.

My countrymen: If all of us would carry out the aims of the *Palihan ng Bayan*, we could be sure that, even if we selected anybody to be the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, he and his administration would succeed. It is erroneous to suppose that the progress of a country depends upon what its president could do. A country that knows not how to impart justice, a country that does not protect its constituents nor seek the welfare of all, a nation that heeds the inducement of men who seek only their own welfare and who even bring destruction by their acts, will attain not its well-being but unhappiness and sacrifice instead. [*Ovation.*]

One of the underlying causes why I decided not to run for reëlection is that I do not wish to make you feel, especially here in the Philippines, that power or position will affect our morals in our stand simply because we have the idea that our will is subjected to changes. The fact is our hearts throb with the love of country above the love for power, for equality, for freedom and for justice. [*Ringling applause.*]

It is improper to think that we should never leave a position if we found it to be enjoyable. We must select the best man for the highest and most powerful position in our land; we must follow him and give him his due. If the time comes for him to leave his position, he must abide by the will of the people. It is really true that there are persons

who feel untowardly when they leave their office. They can not forget that they have exercised powers and enjoyed privileges, and almost they have nothing in their mind except the idea of being returned to their former position. Because of their desire for power, they accept this even from foreigners if they can not secure it from their people.

There are also a few who, in the past, had the opportunity to seek important positions in the high councils of the nation, and when their days were over, they became discontented. Their ardent desire to return to their former positions served as the inducing force in seeking any means in order to destroy, if possible, the solidarity of the nation; for they believe that if this were brought about, they would, in the long run, be powerful on the face of the earth. This is very bad indeed, because there is no other poison that will end the life of the country except such condemnable attitude.

We should, therefore, show that there are Filipinos who abhor returning to their former positions when the time comes to return to them. This is the reason why, although I have many friends and colleagues, and also countrymen from whom I often hear invitations that I continue in my office, yet I have remained adamant to their inducement. [Applause.] May this attitude of mine against reëlection open the eyes of those who are seeking power and high positions, and may it also enlighten them to the fact that they should not love power more than they should love their country, no matter what the status of each individual be. There are men who are ready to accept positions if these positions are high ones.

Again, let me confide in you: I will not be the one to substitute myself in the coming election. But if there will be persons who shall offer that I become councilor, I will be ready to be so. [Continuous ovation and cries of "Mabuhay" and "Reëlection".] No reëlection! [Cries again of "Mabuhay" and "Reëlection".] Wait a minute, I am not yet through. It is not the high position that gives honor to a man. The good will in the performance of official functions is the one that gives due credit to the man. [Applause.] Even a humble councilor or an employee who is cognizant of his duties, which he derives from the people or from the Government, enjoys great honor in comparison with a President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines who had no other concern than to seek his own welfare or his own personal convenience and that of his friends. [Cries of "Mabuhay" and applause.] But there are also some persons who select a position which they can accept because what they have in their minds is not to serve the country but to exercise powers. [Applause.] Any person who is ready to serve his country should not select any position if this is not offered to him. [Applause.]

My countrymen: I have already reminded you that we should forget dissensions arising from our party affiliations. If there is really anything on which we do not agree because our ideas do not coincide, it is not bad if we join together or form a party of our own. Those who are in favor of a principle should stand by it; and those who are in opposition should also abide by it on the other side.

What are our differences in the Philippines today? Are we really in conflict with our desire to obtain political independence? Are we opposed to each other in the belief regarding social justice? Is there any man here who could tell me that he is not happy to know that I favor the laborers, and that I seek their betterment and also the protection of their legitimate rights? Is there anybody here who opposes the development of Mindanao? Are there men in this gathering who are courageous enough to stand and tell you frankly: "The acts of President Quezon are foolish"? Nobody! In recognition of the efforts of the Government to help the country and of my efforts and sacrifice to do something for the welfare of the masses, they have nothing to say against me. Yet they always criticize and consider me as bad. They seem to feel, because of their unlimited comments and criticisms, that if they are the ones to substitute me, they could do better. In short, they are inviting us to be divided as a people, not because they have great purposes which will be for the welfare of the country, but because of their desire that we become weak so that they could come into power.

My countrymen, we cannot prevent a few of our colleagues from deserting us. That is not very important, and it will not prejudice my efforts to help you. It is not nice for us to stage a demonstration and have nobody remain as spectator. [Laughter.] It is better that some be outside the fence in order that they may detect whether what we are doing inside is either good or bad. It is unnecessary for them to criticize us if what we are doing is bad. But what I wish should not come to pass, for which I pray day and night, is that we be not divided in this country.

We should not be divided because this is not yet the opportune time for us to part on opposite ways. These are the days when our country needs the coöperation of all: those who can bestow wisdom and those who can afford to give love as a contribution to their country.

There are many who dare say that I am doing this in order to deceive the country. I do not want to answer the charge because I hold on to my four years of service in the Government whose administration is under the *antis* and the *pros*. The country should reply to such charges because the people know very well if the country has been benefited or not during the four years of administration by the *antis* and the *pros*.

At the time that our leaders were at loggerheads, their followers—men who could help secure the welfare of the country—were also divided. If I allowed such situation to continue, what would happen to us? One half will work for the good of the country and the other half will exert every effort to destroy what has been accomplished by the former. Where would we be under these circumstances?

My countrymen, I should like you to ponder upon the things which I shall say to you. Let us suppose that there exist two corporations in our Government, which offer only one commodity for sale. The members of one corporation believe that it should have a majority and a minority. The minority has nothing in mind but to destroy the acts of the majority. The majority, if they desire to do good to the corporation, will oppose the measure of the minority; the latter believes that if they cooperate, they will not be able to oust the majority from their power. In the other organization, all are united and they have nothing in mind except to help each and every member thereof for the good of the corporation.

The Government is simply an organization of the people. A government the members of whose board of directors are in complete accord, will do much good for the country. But a government wherein the officers do nothing but criticize each other in order to take over one another's power is bound to collapse. This is my answer to those who say that a division is necessary in this country.

You should know that in democratic governments, the conflicting parties unite if there is war or calamity. Why? Because they admit that a country is only bound to succeed in war if they are united. In cases of emergency, they seek a way to bring about their union in order to succeed. They become united in the face of danger so as to gain strength. It may be true that it is much better to have two parties instead of only one. The Philippines is not at war; the status of the Philippines is the same as that of other governments under a critical regime. We are facing the goal of our independence, and we should exert all our efforts so that, should our country become free, we could be prepared for any war in case this ever comes. In the course of our efforts to establish a new government our country is entering into a new economic era. We now have a government under which all are united and in perfect companionship—a government which has the coöperation of all.

One of the causes why I like to leave my position is that I wish my countrymen, especially my adversaries, to learn that I am not asking anything from the people who may work against me, and that, instead, I am ready to help bring about the welfare of the Government. Those who seek our disunion or division have already exercised powers and enjoyed privileges, and you will see that they will again be in the election front in the future although they will not win. [*Laughter, applause and cries of "Mabuhay."*] But if those who desire our division are the ones whom you will help to win. I promise you that they can expect my help and my support. [*Cries of "Mabuhay" and applause.*]

I cannot force anybody to do one thing. I can never aspire to have a position if it will be prejudicial or will not be of benefit to the country. Because of my belief that our unity should not be destroyed nor the people be divided, even though the one who will be elected is not my colleague in the party, I would still respect him. On the day that I cease to hold my position. I shall present him to the people and address him in this wise: "My countrymen, here is the man whom you have elected. I am not the one who selected him; he is not my party colleague, but for the welfare of the country and for the unity of the nation, in order to avert division and the collapse of the country and because he is our president, we are duty-bound to help him and coöperate with him in his administration." [*Cries of "Mabuhay" and applause.*]

My countrymen: I will repeat here that the present status of the Filipinos is very precarious. The peace and contentment of our forbears is now in our hands. We, who after a short period will die, are only worrying about the future of our children whom we shall leave behind. In the name of the Philippines and in the name of my children I ask all to unite and coöperate with our government in order that it may discharge properly its duties in seeking the freedom and contentment of our country. [*Cries of “Mabuhay” and repeated applause.*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Silver Anniversary of the members of the law profession who passed the 1914 Bar Examination, September 20, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Silver Anniversary of the members of the law profession who passed the 1914 Bar Examination**

[Delivered at Manila Hotel, September 20, 1939]

**“COURTS SHOULD INFUSE LEGAL TRADITION WITH BREATH OF
PRESENT DAY LIFE!”— QUEZON**

From THE PHILIPPINES HERALD, Sept. 20, 1939, as republished in THE LAWYERS' JOURNAL, Vol. VII,
Oct. 31, 1939, No. 20

Anxiety and concern over the future of the Philippines and an earnest appeal for a close study of the trend and development of the international politics of today in iteration to the Philippine problem was voiced last night by President Manuel L. Quezon at the banquet in the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel in celebration of the silver anniversary of the members of the law profession who passed the bar examination in 1914.

The President also made a comprehensive analysis of the changed and changing political and social philosophy governing the world of today to bring out the idea that just as in present-day governments—even in dictatorships—the philosophy of respect for the best interests of the greatest number obtains, so the time is here when the courts should infuse legal traditions with the breath of present-day life in order that courts of justice may be guided by a living legal philosophy and laws are interpreted in the lint of modern politico-social doctrines the keynote of which is to consider the welfare of the nation as a whole as the paramount interest over and above the red-tape of legal technicalities.

Thought-Provoking

Because subtly said and forcefully delivered, last night's speech made by the President will stand out in history as one of the most thought-provoking addresses ever made by the Filipino national leader.

It was an extemporaneous speech and the President made it clear that he was not prepared to make an address but that in view of certain remarks made by Secretary Benigno S. Aquino, who was the spokesman of the class, he was compelled to make a response.

Secretary Aquino, speaking for the class, expressed the gratitude and the hope of his colleagues by saying that the class was grateful to the President, to whom they were dedicating their silver anniversary in the law profession, because of the fact that he has honored some of the members with the highest positions in the government; he expressed their hope with the toast that they expect to see the present Commonwealth President as the first President of the Philippine Republic when independence is established by the Filipino people in 1946.

President Quezon, in his response, said that he was grateful to Secretary Aquino for the expression of the hope which he said was that of his class but the President said, such an expression would have made him happy four or five years days ago, but that now, in view of recent international developments, he receive it with real misgiving and concern.

He enjoined his hearers to study the trend of events and to scan, with him, the future of the Philippines in order that they may properly lead the nation when the time for final decision is at hand. The President expressed the confidence that given the intelligence and the background of those who were listening to him, he need not say more, but that he was leaving it to them to make their own conclusions regarding his statement that the expression of Secretary Aquino's hope was received by his not with the natural rejoicing that such an exalted honor logically conveys, but with the anxiety of one who, while loving his country, cannot help but look at the morrow with anxiety and concern.

Tribute to Judges

The President then went to pay a tribute to the present administration of justice, saying that he knows for a certainty that during the last three years he has seen how the faith of the people in the courts, especially in the supreme court, has been strengthened and enhanced because of the efficient, just and speedy manner in which justice has been dispensed to poor and rich alike. He said that he was proud of the members of the judiciary, men of unimpeachable honesty and integrity and of unquestioned ability, and who would, according to him, honor any bench anywhere in the world.

President Quezon then declared that he was not speaking as the Chief Executive but as a mere Juan de la Cruz, and as a man on the street he emphasized that despite the high standards of the present administration of justice in the Philippines, there are certain legal technicalities that the ordinary citizen cannot understand.

Why certain estafa cases cannot be decided by the courts for months and sometimes for years, he said, is beyond the comprehension of Juan de la Cruz; why a man who is known to have committed a crime can have his trial postponed time and again stretching to years because of certain technicalities taken advantage of by luminaries of the bar is incomprehensible to the simple mind of the average citizen; how defendants who can employ good lawyers can circumvent the law while those who cannot afford to have expensive counsel go to jail is also something that the poor "tao" cannot understand.

The President then suggested that the remedy lies, first, in better rules of procedure that should be promulgated by the Supreme Court, and, second, by imbuing the lawyers with the conviction that they are officers of the court to help in the administration of speedy justice.

Mistaken "Espirit de corps"

He stressed the fact that the Philippine bar has a mission to perform and that it should take the initiative in seeing to it that unprincipled lawyers are given their due. The President assailed the so-called "esprit de corps" which he said is misunderstood and misinterpreted as a shield to conceal the faults or the crimes of fellow members of a group when rightly it should be interpreted as the purging out of the undesirable member to protect the whole organization or profession. "Espirit de corps" according to him should be the commendable spirit of defending the good name of the whole body and not the protection of an individual member or members who are besmirching the good name of all.

In vigorous words he denounced the common failing of the Filipinos of being weak hearted when it comes to a case in which their friend or someone close to them is affected. He made it clear that a thing is wrong or punishable per se or it is not; if it is, there should be no halfway measures, and the time has come in the national development of the Filipinos when they should forget attachments and should be able to subordinate their personal feelings to the demands of justice and good government.

Changing Social Ideas

The President was in the height of his eloquence when he began to speak of what he conceives to be the need of the courts today. He spoke of the changing social and political philosophies of the present and contrasted dictatorships with democracies, saying that even in dictatorships an attempt is constantly made by the Hitlers and the Mussolinis

and the Stalins to interpret the wishes of the people and to make it appear that their decisions bear the stamp of popular approval as shown by their reiterated calls for plebiscite for every action they take of national significance.

He declared emphatically that the new philosophy of the times demands that in the interpretation of the laws of the land by the courts, the courts must keep themselves attuned to the demands of the present, hearing in mind their responsibility that the judiciary is in fact the supreme power of the land, for the courts interpret laws and interpreting them, they legislate, and it is a legislation that can neither be repealed nor vetoed.

Again he stressed the fact that he was not in any way trying to tell the courts here what to do and that while he can never dissociate himself from the fact that he is at all times the chief executive of the Commonwealth, still he was but discoursing last night on a topic nearest his heart as an ordinary citizen would.

Laws Are Mutable

Axiomatically, he made the assertion with the emphasis that he alone can give words, that while justice is eternal, laws are mutable, and the proper interpretation of laws should not ignite the existing political and social conditions when and where the laws are applied.

He sarcastically referred to the so-called luminaries of the bar who pride themselves in their fossilized knowledge of precedents and jurisprudence yellowed with age in the libraries an dusty with the dust of centuries, saying that while he does not discount the value of such legal wisdom as a background, still it is important that they be taken not as graveyard relics to awe both the courts and the litigants, but as a living legal philosophy to be interpreted in the light of present day conditions. The welfare of the whole nation, he said, is and should always be the supreme consideration.

Concluding, he reminded his audience that they are living in a changing world with regnant philosophies that are also changing and that the courts of justice if they are continue deserving the confidence of the people, must not be shackled to tradition but must move onward with the times; and he further said that it does not necessarily follow that what was sacrosanct before should also be sacrosanct now. He asserted that the sanctity of contracts is no longer respected when such contracts violate human rights, for human rights, it must at all times be remembered, he stressed, are always and should always be above property rights.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1939). [Courts should infuse legal tradition with breath of present day life!]. University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library.

Speech of President Quezon on Government Aid to Interisland Shipping, October 7, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

GOVERNMENT AID TO INTERISLAND SHIPPING

[Broadcast from the m. s. *Don Isidro*, on October 7, 1939]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am addressing you from the *Don Isidro*, the newest interisland steamer owned by the grand old man of the South, Don Esteban de la Rama. Without any question, this ship is second to none in our interisland navigation; and Don Esteban and his son-in-law, Mr. Pirovano, who is in charge of the shipping business of the company, deserve to be heartily congratulated. More than this, they are entitled to public recognition, for in acquiring this and other new ships to be used in the domestic and foreign trade of the Philippines, they have shown themselves to be public-spirited citizens of our community who are endowed with unusual vision and courage.

I know very few men in this or any other country who would have attempted to do what Don Esteban has done after working hard all his life and consolidating a large fortune, which is more than sufficient to insure a comfortable existence not only for himself during the remaining years of his life, but also for his family. He has tempted fortune by risking everything he possesses in the acquisition of these ships, not so much out of any desire to increase his wealth as out of his determination to coöperate with the Government in its policy of securing for the people of the Philippines more and better transportation facilities.

I am especially proud of, and happy over, the acquisition of this and other ships by my friend Don Esteban, because I have been interested during the last few years in encouraging the improvement of our interisland transportation. Travel by sea in the Philippines used to be a real hardship. It seemed that those engaged in the interisland shipping had been afraid to invest so much capital in the business. They did not believe that the public would respond by patronizing the better, if more expensive, steamers. And so the first step I took, upon seeing the lack of willingness on the part of our shipowners to acquire up-to-date and comfortable boats, was to suggest to the Dollar Steamship Company to provide us with one of such ships. Thus the *Mayon* came to be placed in the interisland service by the Dollar Company. This marked the beginning of rapid improvement in our interisland steamers. Fernandez Hermanos, Elizalde and Company. Madrigal, and later Don Esteban de la Rama, with his first boat the *Don Esteban*, all felt the inducement to acquire more and better ships. Later, upon learning of the plan of Mr. Dollar to take the *Mayon* to other waters, I asked the Manila Railroad Company to acquire it, not only because we certainly needed this ship, but also for sentimental reasons I wanted to keep in the Philippines the pioneer ship which had been responsible for the improvement of our interisland navigation. Not content with this, some time before the Government acquired the *Mayon*, I announced that the Government was ready to extend a helping hand to any local corporation which is desirous of acquiring new ships, by providing it with the necessary funds at low rates of interest if it can offer sufficient security. We waited for some time without anyone making any such offer, until the day came when a formal proposition was submitted by Don Esteban de la Rama for the acquisition of the *Don Isidro* and other ships. Tonight, after a most marvelous trip lasting five days and covering territory that formerly would have required about two weeks' time, I am now returning to Manila with the satisfaction of having used the first ship acquired under the circumstances I have related above.

I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to say that the Government is playing no favorites, and anyone who has the security and is willing to invest in the acquisition of good ships will receive its help.

Good night.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Address of President Quezon on the Significance of the Plebiscite on the Proposed Changes in the Tydings-McDuffie Law, October 11, 1939

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLEBISCITE ON THE PROPOSED
CHANGES IN THE TYDINGS-McDUFFIE LAW**

[Broadcast in a national hookup from the Malacañan Palace, Manila,
on October 11, 1939]

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

One of the objectionable features of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, which was not corrected by the Tydings-McDuffie Law, pertained to the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines five years after the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth. But the Philippine Legislature accepted the Tydings-McDuffie Law as a substitute for the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, not only because the most objectionable provisions of the latter Act had been eliminated but also because the President of the United States had assured me, which he reiterated to the Congress, that if inequalities and imperfections in the Tydings-McDuffie Law were found they would be remedied later.

In accordance with this Presidential commitment and in agreement with me, President Roosevelt, two years ago, appointed a Joint Preparatory Committee composed of Americans and Filipinos to study the effect on our national economy after 1941, of the trade relations between America and the Philippines as provided in the Tydings-McDuffie Law, and to make suitable recommendations on the matter. This Committee found that if the economic provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Law were to take effect in 1941, as they must unless the law were amended in this respect, our tobacco and coconut oil products, as well as other minor products such as pearl buttons, embroideries, etc., would have to pay export taxes when shipped to the United States, and the payment of such taxes would prevent their sale in the American market at a profit; and since they cannot compete with similar products in other markets of the world, the industries thus affected would be ruined, resulting in the impoverishment of millions of Filipinos who are engaged therein, be it in the factories or farms.

The Committee also found that our other major industries, of which sugar is one, need further protection after 1946 if they are to survive even after the independence of the Philippines shall have been proclaimed. Hence the committee submitted recommendations covering two periods; namely, the period before independence, and the period after independence.

The Congress of the United States, at its last session, passed a law embodying the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee for the period before independence, but did not take any action on the recommendations covering the period after independence. The law, however, provides that at least two years before independence, there should be an economic conference between representatives of the United States and of the Philippines to discuss the trade relations which should exist between the two countries after the establishment of the Philippine Republic. It also modifies the existing Congressional legislation concerning the use of the excise tax on oil, so that the funds collected from this tax may be available for economic readjustments even in the coconut-producing provinces.

But this law, whose enactment had caused so much effort not only on the part of the President of the United States and High Commissioner Sayre, but also on the part of our representatives in the United States—Vice President Osmeña and other members of his mission, Commissioner Elizalde and Assemblyman Paredes—will not take effect unless it is approved by the Filipino people in a plebiscite held for the purpose. The National Assembly has called that plebiscite on the 24th of this month, October. In this plebiscite, the only question to be submitted to you—upon which you shall vote either “yes” or “no”—is whether or not you approve the proposed changes in the Tydings-McDuffie Law regarding the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines from 1911 until 1946, which I have explained before. In this coming plebiscite the proposed amendments to the Constitution, which have been approved by the National Assembly in its last session, regarding the term of office of the President and the creation of the Senate are not in any way involved. For the approval or disapproval of these proposed amendments, another plebiscite will be held next year.

Since I know of no one who has come out in opposition to the proposed changes in the economic provisions of the Independence Act, which will be submitted to you for approval or disapproval in the plebiscite of October 24, I have no doubt that practically every vote that will be cast in that plebiscite will be “yes”. But I fear that only a few voters will take the trouble to go to the polls precisely because everyone takes it for granted that the result of the plebiscite will be in the affirmative. This is the reason why I am talking to you tonight, my beloved countrymen. I want to remind you that it is of the utmost importance that every voter should go to the polls and vote “yes”. Your vote in this plebiscite is of far greater consequence to the welfare of our people and the future of the Philippine Republic than your vote in any national or local elections. Upon your vote will depend whether or not the millions of tobacco and coconut farmers and the large number of workers in the tobacco and oil factories will be destitute, and whether our country will be in a sound financial and economic condition when independence comes in 1946.

There are other reasons why all of us should vote in this plebiscite. The Congress of the United States has approved a measure that is favorable to our country, but has made its effectiveness dependent upon the affirmative vote of our people in this plebiscite. Do you not believe that if only a small percentage of our voters should cast their ballots in the plebiscite the government and people of the United States would have reason to feel that we do not appreciate the concession that has been granted to us?

But this is not all. The act recently passed by the Congress, as I have already indicated, provides for the holding of an economic conference between the two countries at least two years before independence. That economic conference is of vital importance to our nation because only through that conference can we hope to continue the enjoyment of preferential trade after independence, which is so necessary to enable us to adjust our national economy properly. If you should stay away from the plebiscite, it is very likely that the Congress would think that we are indifferent to the continuance of our preferential trade relations with America after independence.

I, therefore, urge all our voters, regardless of political affiliation and social station, to go to the polls on the 24th of October. And since this plebiscite is not on any political question, civil service employees have the right not only to vote but also to speak in public and explain to the people the question upon which they are going to vote.

People of the Philippines: Show your patriotism by going to the polls on October 24 and voting “yes”.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Faith in the Philippine Cabinet, October 14, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Faith in the Philippine Cabinet**

[Delivered at Dagupan, Pangasinan, October 14, 1939]

I have brought Secretary Alunan along with me today so that the people of Pangasinan may know that he is still my secretary of the interior.

And I have also brought the other members of the cabinet so that you may see for yourselves that they are still members of my cabinet.

I am glad to speak in the legislative district of Assemblyman Perez who is one of the most active and aggressive men of the National Assembly. He is so aggressive that he would not be satisfied with the resignation of Secretary Alunan but also wants my entire cabinet to resign.

Resume:

Cabinet members present with the President were Secretary Alunan, Secretary of Finance Manuel A. Roxas, Secretary of Justice Jose Abad Santos, and Secretary of Public Instruction Jorge C. Bocobo.

In his 30-minute speech which he delivered here shortly after 4 o'clock the afternoon following his arrival from Pampanga in a special train, the President buttressed his appeal in his radio speech to the nation, asking the electorate to take part in the plebiscite on October 24 and to vote for the acceptance of the economic amendments to the Constitution.

President Quezon began his speech by declaring that this was his first visit to Pangasinan in many years. Four years of his administration have passed, and the people of Pangasinan have had opportunity in that period to appraise his administration, the President said. He said he was cheered by seeing the many smiling faces in the crowd before him, so many individual endorsements of what his administration has done for the people.

Pangasinan has a group of aggressive representatives in the Assembly, he said, adding jokingly that if anything is to be gotten for the province they are to get it. President Quezon called attention to the fact that there is at present a fund of P5,000,000 in the national treasury to solve the food problems of Pangasinan and remove the deadly menace that yearly threatens the people of this province.

One of the main purpose of his visit to the province, he continued, referred to the plebiscite on October 24, on the amendment the Ordinance appended to the Constitution to effectuate the provisions of the Tydings-Kocalkowski Economic Adjustment Act.

Unless this economic act is ratified by the people, he said, all Philippine goods exported to the United States will begin paying tariff duties beginning in 1941.

President Quezon appealed to the Pangasinan electorate to take part in the plebiscite and to vote "yes" for the acceptance of the economic adjustment act. There is another reason, however why the people should take part in the

plebiscite and vote “yes,” he declared. He reminded the people that after independence the responsibilities and expenditures of the government will increase, and he thinks that if the people cannot pay their taxes it will be impossible to support an independent government.

The government is doing all in its power to increase the national wealth and the people’s purchasing power, the President continued, but this is not enough. It is also imperative that the people must convince Congress to give the Philippines preferential trade relations following the grant of independence.

President Quezon drew attention to the fact that it is not an easy matter to obtain such a law granting preferential trade relations. Many large corporations in the United States would be against the passage of such legislation, he pointed out, and if Congress believes that only large corporations in the Philippines are for economic concessions, then as between large corporations, Congress will naturally side with American business interests.

Congress will only grant the Philippines such concessions, he remarked, if it knows positively that the desire for them is the will of the masses of the people, and that it is they who want and need economic preferences, only in that way can the Philippines obtain preferences, he said.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Presidency of the University of the Philippines, October 19, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PRESIDENCY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Delivered during the inauguration ceremonies of Dr. Bienvenido M. Gonzalez as President of the University of the Philippines, held on the University campus, Manila, on October 19, 1939]

President Gonzalez, Delegates from Other Universities,
Members of the Faculty and Student Body, Ladies and
Gentlemen:

I shall make only a few remarks this evening. The occasion, as you all know, is the celebration of the induction into office of the new President of this University. The stage is set for him, and we are here to honor him and to listen to his message. But before proceeding with what I have to say, permit me to digress for a moment in order to voice my heartfelt thanks and convey my warm congratulations to the cadet corps of this university for their magnificent showing during the review given in my honor on the 16th. For a while, I really did not know what to do—whether to go on with the review or to dispense with it. I felt that it was almost cruelty on my part to allow those young men to parade before me in that rain, but then I asked myself: What kind of a Commander-in-Chief would I be, and what conception of the life of a soldier for which they are being trained would I give them, if I were to falter merely because of rain? So I decided to proceed with the review, and I am glad that I did it for I was more thrilled by that review than by any other I had previously witnessed. For the satisfaction of the cadets, I want to tell them that although I had a raincoat on, yet it was so thin that I was completely soaked under it.

The University is conferring today the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, on the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court. No man deserves this honor more than Chief Justice Avanceña. He is highly endowed not only with a judicial mind but also with a judicial temperament. Wise, as well as patriotic, he is eminently fitted for the exalted office which he so worthily occupies.

I now come to the primary purpose of this celebration. President Gonzalez has been chosen upon no other consideration than that of merit. In responsibility and opportunity for service, the presidency of this university is second to none. I know that President Gonzalez fully realizes this fact, for shortly after his selection for this post, he was offered a position which carries a salary that is almost five times as much as his present salary, but he declined it. Incidentally, I may say that President Gonzalez' refusal of this very tempting offer is a conclusive evidence that he possesses the moral fibre with which educational leaders are, and should be, endowed. Here is a living example which the constituency of this university may well emulate. It teaches that in importance, material wealth is secondary to the priceless value of service.

While, on the one hand, the University of the Philippines is fortunate to have at its head a scientist with proven ability for leadership in the educational field, President Gonzalez, on his part, has every reason to congratulate himself for being presented with the opportunity, which his predecessors did not have, of assuming the direction of this high institution of learning at a time when the Government has taken a broader view of its objectives and is willing to spend more money to accomplish those objectives.

The first step we have taken to make the university what it should be, is its transfer to a more appropriate site away from the noise of the city, which detracts the serene life of the scholar. It is a site which, in natural beauty, excels any other spot in the vicinity of Manila. Three days ago I went there again to view the university site, and I want to tell you that my heart throbbed with joy when I saw the place and felt how happy the students of the University would be on the new site. I am glad that the silent opposition of some professors and the vocal protests of some students of the College of Law did not deter me from carrying out my idea of moving the university away from this wholly unsuitable campus. Of course, I shall be out of office and perhaps no longer in this world by the time all the new buildings of the university are created, but I have pictured in my imagination what the future university would look like; and if I have done nothing else during my term of office than to effect this transfer. I shall still have the satisfaction of having rendered some permanent service to the country.

The Constitution of the Philippines guarantees academic freedom to the universities established by the State and as a matter of course, to private universities. But so that no one may mistake this academic freedom for license to teach antisocial and subversive doctrines, the same Constitution provides that all educational institutions shall be under the supervision of, and subject to regulation by, the State. In the case of this State University, it goes without saying that it forms a very important part of our educational system, and its objectives must be determined by governmental policies. Here leaders will be trained in statesmanship, in the sciences, in the arts, in business, in industry and agriculture, but it must be remembered that we seek not quantity but quality.

President Gonzalez, I desire to congratulate you from the bottom of my heart for your election by the Board of Regents as President of the University of the Philippines. I want you to know, and I want the university constituency to realize fully, that you have the complete confidence of the Board of Regents and of the Government as well. This means that subject only to the authority which is vested by law in the Board of Regents, you will direct and control this institution, and your decisions will stand.

Assured of the unstinted support of the Board of Regents and of the Government, you will, I am sure, make this university excel the fondest hopes of our people.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Quezon on Hon. Francis B. Sayre and the Philippines and its People, October 21, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**HON. FRANCIS B. SAYRE AND THE PHILIPPINES AND
ITS PEOPLE**

[Delivered at the New Luneta, Manila, on October 21, 1939]

Mr. High Commissioner, People of the Philippines:

The new United States High Commissioner has arrived and we are here to greet and welcome him with hearts filled with gratitude, for no better choice could have been made by the President of the United States than the selection of His Excellency, Francis B. Sayre. [*Applause.*]

This is the first time, as far as I know, that he has landed on these beautiful shores of Manila Bay. But he knows the Philippines and the Filipino people, the beauty and the vast resources of this country, and our economic needs, as well as anyone who has lived with us for many years. He has spent the last three years studying all angles of the Philippine problem, using his keen mind and the great humanitarian heart that throbs within him. Knowing so much about our needs here, he was able to do everything within his power to secure for our people and our country the needed help of the United States throughout all the processes that took place from the time the President of the United States and I had agreed on the appointment of a Joint Preparatory Committee to study carefully the future trade relations between the United States and the Philippines, until the Congress acted upon the report and recommendations of that committee. The Congress of the United States did not deem it advisable to act at this time on all the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee, but it has adopted to a large extent the recommendations of the committee regarding our trade relations with the United States up to 1946. The Congress has also provided that two years prior to the date fixed for the recognition of Philippine independence, a new committee shall be appointed to consider the question of the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines after independence.

For the last three years I had been hoping that His Excellency, Francis B. Sayre, would be appointed United States High Commissioner to succeed High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, whose early return to the United States was anticipated. I had requested him to come with the other members of the Joint Preparatory Committee, but because he had several other duties to perform which Secretary of State Cordell Hull was not willing to entrust to other hands, his trip had to be postponed. Today, however, he is here with us. He finds a people who know him as well as he knows them. We know of his record as adviser to the Government of Siam, and of his ability to treat the people of a different race. We know of his deep interest in our welfare. We know that he is our friend, and we welcome him today with grateful hearts and cordially extend to him the hospitality of our whole country. We hope that he and Mrs. Sayre will enjoy their stay in the Philippines, and may he be the man to turn over to the first President of the Philippine Republic [*applause*] the authority and sovereignty of the United States over these Islands.

People of the Philippines: the United States High Commissioner, Francis B. Sayre.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the 21st Anniversary of the First Meeting for Woman Suffrage and Civil Rights and Social Responsibilities of Women, October 28, 1939

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the 21st Anniversary of the First Meeting for Woman Suffrage and Civil Rights and Social
Responsibilities of Women**

[Delivered at the Villamor Hall, Manila on October 28, 1939]

Mrs. Alano, Ladies,—I ignore the gentlemen: [*Laughter.*]

I did not know that the founders of the League of Women Voters started on this work when they were hardly five years old. But that seems to be a fact, since we are now celebrating only the twenty-first anniversary of the first meeting for woman suffrage, and we have before us the leaders who founded the League. [*Laughter.*]

At the outset, I wish to warn you that I may not please my audience tonight for I do not intend to say anything that will flatter them. [*Laughter.*]

I voted in favor of granting the Filipino women the right to vote. I have always been in favor of granting them that right, not because I believe that the country will, in any new way, be more benefited by the vote than without it, but because women in the Philippines had, as a matter of fact, not only influenced but also decided our elections long before they ever voted. We are only recognizing as a matter of right what they had already been exercising as a matter of fact, so that I did not expect anything new after we have granted them the right to vote. In this connection, I want to tell you that the only occasion I fought to have myself elected was when I was for the first time a candidate for governor of Tayabas. And frankly speaking, I had been elected governor possibly because women had supported me. [*Laughter.*]

There is no special reason why we should expect anything unusual, because women have been given the right to vote; and those who believe the contrary, are simply deceiving themselves. Why have we granted the women the right to vote? Simply because we consider them as capable—or as incapable—of voting as the men. I am emphasizing this fact so that the country, as well as the women themselves, may not be disappointed if nothing miraculous happens, which is quite possible, merely by giving the women their suffrage. Will anybody tell me if there is any politician who has been prejudiced since women in this country voted? No! Has there been any fundamental change in our politics since women voted? No, because as citizens the women are like the men. We have the same ideas as to what is good and what is right. We have similar ideas as to what is best for our fellow men. There are exceptions, of course; but, as a general proposition, men and women who have the same ideas react in the same way.

The man who is talking to you is a politician who has been in politics for a long time; he is a married man, and therefore knows many men in public life who are also married. I know how women react to political situations; but when it comes to the actual exercise of their duties as citizens. I do not see any difference among us. So I want to warn you concerning the scope of this change in our political life. Do not expect anything new, otherwise you will be disappointed. Do not believe that, because women are voting today, every public official will automatically and spontaneously be of the first class type, and that dishonesty will at once disappear in our Government. Reforms in the government may be effected only by the joint efforts of the whole citizenry, but not by the enfranchisement of a new class of voters.

Mrs. Mendez said that she hopes to be able to tell her grandchildren, when she becomes a grandmother, that women owe to President Quezon their right to vote. Well, that appraisal is true, but I am not claiming the credit. I am making the following statement merely as matter of historical record. Without my aggressive support, you could

hardly have had the necessary vote in the plebiscite because, as a matter of historical fact, the majority of you women were against your own suffrage. Yet those anti-suffragists are now exercising their right to vote, so that in the final reckoning those who believe in suffrage really triumphed.

A Filipino is fervently respectful to women—even to his wife—and in the Philippines men have voluntarily given women the right to vote without much struggle on their part. It is only in this country that the women acquired suffrage easily. In America and England the women struggled long and hard, and at times employed physical violence. On the other hand, here you received that right without exerting great efforts. That does not, however, diminish the credit which belongs to the organizers of the League, for courage was required on their part at that time when the Filipinos, both men and women, laughed at the mention of woman suffrage. I doubt very much if without their initiative the Filipino women would be exercising that right today. But, while I recognize that fact, I have to warn the women that they have not wrested that right from the men. The men willingly gave it to them.

Mrs. Mendez also spoke of certain rights the women of our age enjoy. I agree with every statement that she made. While I claim the credit of being the first in the Legislature to advocate the granting of some civil rights which the women enjoy today, yet I am not as yet satisfied. I am for giving the women even greater rights than what they have now, so that they may have civil rights which are commensurate with their great responsibilities in society.

I am not one of those who talk and preach and yet do not put into actual practice what they preach. In my home, for example, my wife has the sole power and right over our children. It is only when Mrs. Quezon is away that I perform that responsibility. So I go farther than Mrs. Mendez, for I am willing to give women more rights than those already granted. I will give them more because it is their paramount duty today to educate, direct, and shape the character of their children. That is the greatest duty a woman has to perform as a citizen.

I make that statement although I have absolute faith in woman suffrage and in the right of women to take active part in our public affairs. Still I am old-fashioned enough to say that the women have another duty—a primary duty—to perform, and that is: the direction of home affairs and the building up of the character of the children.

This vital duty of the woman to the home is primarily responsible for my actuation of granting a government employee her leave of absence with pay when she is performing the obligation of motherhood. I am also ready to advocate that measure to a larger degree, so as to include the employed in private corporations. [*Applause*] In this connection, let me tell you this: Not long ago, soon after I learned of it, I reversed the policy of the Bureau of Health which compels every nurse who gets married to resign from her position. So a nurse today can be married and still retain her job. [*Applause*.]

I will now tell you how the women can help the Government in its work on social justice. You are supposed to have a kinder heart and to feel deeper sympathy than the men. You know how our poor people live, how much help they need not only from the Government but also from those who have created a public sentiment in their favor.

I am not sure that I favor the creation of a bureau for women as a means of securing the help of women in the Government, because I am not in favor of differentiating the men from the women in the public service. Why can we not appoint women to some of the bureaus? Well, you will perhaps say: “Why have you not done it? You have the power to do it.” At this point, I must confess that it takes time to introduce and adopt innovations. There is still prejudice against women in the Government service. But the movement towards recognizing in women the ability found in men is rapidly gaining pace.

Mrs. Kalaw mentioned the fact that many women were elected in the last election. That is true. And I want to tell you that I prefer to create in the public mind an attitude which will consider the right of women as a matter of course, rather than establish any difference between the men and the women. In fact, I have not established any difference between them. I treat the women employees in the Government as friends. In this way we create a sense of mutual and common responsibility, and not a sense of class.

Looking at actual life, we see that a woman is never and can never be separated from man. God said: “It is not good to let a man alone. Let us give him a companion.” We can not isolate women in a separate class so as to discriminate

against them, because in every family there is the husband, the wife, the daughter, the son, the sister, and the brother. Such is our way of family life—men and women jointly cooperating with one another to promote the welfare of the group. Such shall be the way in our government.

What I want to say tonight, by way of special message to the women voters and to all women organizations is this: Do not consider yourselves as having a special mission to perform. Do not believe that you can do something that has never been done before. You have the ordinary mission of a citizen—a mission in nature the same as that of man. In your citizenship, there is no difference. The duties that men have, women also have. I am in favor, as I said, of recognizing the civil rights of women. But to attain that recognition your work is not among women; your work must be with men. When you have done that, I have no doubt that you will succeed in your endeavors.

I should have discussed with you a very important question tonight, not with the idea of asking you to take my side of the issue, but simply to give you the best evidence of my faith in your ability to exercise the functions of citizenship. But since it is already quite late and I still have another engagement, I will not even say what it is I hope, nevertheless, to have another chance of meeting not necessarily the League of Women Voters, but a gathering of women; and when I do, I will discuss that subject.

I want to extend my congratulations to the founders of the League of Women Voters who are with us here tonight and who, in twenty-one years, have accomplished more than any other association of women.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Essential Qualities of Boy Scouts, October 31, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF BOY SCOUTS

[Radio broadcast on the occasion of the third anniversary of the approval of the law creating the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, at Malacañan Palace, Manila, October 31, 1939]

Major Stevenot, Boy Scouts, those who are looking at me now, as well as those who are only listening to me through the radio: I have come to show you by my presence the interest I have in your organization, and to deliver a short message to you. I am not familiar with your by-laws. I am sure I do not know as well as you the special objectives of the boy scouts organization. But I do know what to expect of the boy scout in the Philippines. I am proud of the fact that I took part in the enactment of the law which permitted the creation of this organization. But I want you to bear in mind that I am interested not so much in having a boy scout organization of Filipinos as in having that boy scout organization live up to the ideals and objectives of the scout movement in other parts of the world. In other words, I would feel gratified that I have been in some way instrumental in making possible the organization of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines only when I learn that the organization which we now have is better than the one which you used to have before the Boy Scouts of the Philippines was organized.

In judging your organization, as well as others of similar kind, my motto has always been “Quality rather than quantity.” It would be a fine thing if the Boy Scouts of the Philippines grew so much as to have a boy scout organization in every municipality; but more important than having a boy scout organization in every municipality is having those you organized be of the best type. I would rather have only ten boy scouts everyone of whom is the living example and realization of the ideals for which the organization stands, than have a thousand scouts who are not good and worthy.

Addressing a convention of teachers recently, I said that if I were a professor, or an educator, or a school teacher. I would be teaching my pupils their duties rather than their rights. In no organization is it so important that every member be taught his duties and how to comply with them as in the boy scout organization. You are here to do something for somebody else. You are here to show that you are not living for yourselves, that you are not satisfied merely to live and let live, but that your ideal is to live and help others live. So every boy scout must make it his duty not only to live up to the ideals of the institution but to see to it that every member of the institution does likewise. You have been taught from childhood one great principle of life, and that is, that life is worth living only if we use it to render service to others. It is love of humanity that must be instilled in your hearts—love of your fellow men, and not only of your own countrymen. That is the quality that must differentiate the boy scouts from those who are not. The boy scouts must serve humanity. When you see one who is in danger of losing his life, you go and give him your help without asking his name, without asking his nationality, and without looking at the color of his face. When you see that there is a human being who needs your aid, you go and give yourself to help that human being. That to me constitutes the essential quality of a good scout.

I congratulate you upon the third anniversary of the approval of the law which authorized the organization of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. Let me look to the future with confidence that the National Assembly, which has approved this law, would find in the work of the scouts of today and those that will succeed you the realization of the supreme ideal of serving humanity and improving mankind.

Boys, goodbye.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Creation of Department of National Defense, November 1, 1939

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CREATION OF DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

[Delivered during the induction into office as Secretary of National
Defense of Hon. Teofilo Sison, at Malacañan, Manila,
on November 1, 1939]

Mr. Vice-President, General MacArthur, Members of the

Cabinet, Gentlemen:

The step which I am now taking in accordance with the Act passed by the National Assembly organizing the Department of National Defense is the prelude to the organization of the Department of State under the Philippine Republic. This step, in other words, means that the Government of the Commonwealth is carrying out in an orderly, efficient and positive manner the provisions of the Independence Act.

I have chosen as head of the Department of National Defense a man who is well-known to the country because of the previous positions which he occupied in the Government. He was once governor of the largest province in Luzon. He was a senator for his district and later Secretary of the Interior.

When I assumed the office of President of the Commonwealth, Secretary Sison expressed to me his willingness to continue to serve in the Executive Department if his services were needed, but I thought that, having so long served in the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Government, it would be a relief for him to be spared from that kind of work. And so I offered him a position in the Court of Appeals. He had been a leading member of the Bar of his province before he was called by his people to serve as their Governor. During the whole time that he had been in active politics, he had shown such a judicial bent of mind that I considered him to be fully qualified to serve in the Court of Appeals. His record of service in the Court of Appeals is the best evidence that I made no mistake in appointing him there.

When the need for creating the new Department of National Defense was felt, I looked over the field for the man who could best fill the position of Secretary of that Department. I found none better than the man I have chosen, and who in a few minutes will take his oath of office. And so, once more, he is called upon to sacrifice his personal preference, for we are taking him away from the Bench and bringing him into the field of the Executive Department, where no man can find that peaceful and serene environment which the judges are fortunate enough to live in.

The creation of the Department of National Defense shows, as I have already stated, that we are going ahead with our preparation for an independent existence. The lessons of the present war in Europe seem to show that a country that is small in population and resources, cannot expect to resist long the attack of a first class, well-prepared military power. Czechoslovakia hardly had the opportunity of raising its voice against its absorption by Germany. Poland offered resistance which hardly lasted a few weeks. An army of 1,600,000, at least on paper, was destroyed in less than one month. These are lessons that we cannot overlook. They give us no assurance that the Philippines will not be the victim of aggression, even if we armed every man in our country.

But we are going ahead with our preparation within the limitations of our resources, for under the Independence Act a situation is contemplated for the Philippines, which imposes upon us an obligation that must be performed if the situation thus contemplated is to materialize. Under the Independence Act, the President of the United States is authorized and requested to open negotiations with foreign powers, with a view to securing the neutralization of the Philippines. By the express terms of the Act, the authority thus given to the President is to be exercised by him not immediately prior to the establishment of the Philippine Republic in 1946, but as soon as practicable after the inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth. The time, it seems to me, is getting ripe for taking steps towards the neutralization of the Philippines.

Let me not give you the impression that I place full reliance on the neutralization of the Philippines for the protection of our independence and liberty. International treaties, during the last few years, have been violated time and again, and it is not inconceivable that the neutrality of the Philippines, if achieved, will be violated. Nevertheless, the neutralization of the Philippines may prove an important factor in preserving the integrity of our country.

We have an obligation to perform if this country becomes neutral and that is the obligation to defend that neutrality. The powers called upon to sign the treaty for the neutralization of the Philippines would be more willing to enter into such a pact, if they knew that to defend our neutrality, we shall not have to depend exclusively on the strength, the ability or the willingness of the signatory powers to help us. When they see that we have here a force sufficient, at least, to show in actual combat our determination to maintain our neutrality, there will be more likelihood of securing the signature of such powers to a neutralization treaty.

We are, therefore, proceeding with the organization of the Department of National Defense, not only because we have to rely upon ourselves to defend our rights and our liberty, but because if the Philippines were neutralized, it will be our duty to defend that neutrality.

The administration of the national defense is peculiarly the duty of the Chief Executive. The President of the Philippines is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the country. So I have chosen to represent me in the performance of this important duty a man whose ability and integrity is recognized, and in whose loyalty I have absolute faith. I am now ready to take the oath of office of the Secretary of National Defense.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Address of President Quezon on National Abacá and other Fiber Corporation and the Hemp Industry,
November 4, 1939**

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES ON

**NATIONAL ABACA AND OTHER FIBER CORPORATION
AND THE HEMP INDUSTRY**

[Delivered during the induction into office as Manager of the Abacá
and Other Fiber Corporation of Hon. Pedro Sabido, at Mala-
cañan, Manila, on November 4, 1939]

Gentlemen:

The creation by the National Assembly of the National Abacá and Other Fiber Corporation is a very important part of that program of preparing the Philippines against the time when all preferential trade relations between us and the United States shall have terminated. It was with diffidence that I signed the bill creating this corporation and I only signed it after I had made it clear to the public and to the National Assembly that I was not going to launch the Government of the Philippines into the adventure of attempting to dictate the price of hemp to the markets of the world. Other nations have attempted to hold up the price of some of their special products for export and have learned at a great loss to the national treasury that this is a thing that cannot be done. Practically every article, no matter how essential and necessary for certain purposes, has its maximum price beyond which it will be substituted with similar articles, even if of a lower quality, because the trade cannot stand it. There was a time during the World War when the Philippine National Bank suffered losses in trying to help our hemp exporters to get a price which the market could not pay.

Let me state what this corporation will attempt to do. First, it will help the hemp farmers to improve the quality of their product and to lower the cost of production; second it will facilitate the elimination of too many middlemen in the hemp trade by encouraging cooperative selling on the part of the farmers of their product, directly to the exporters or, if possible, to the hemp factories abroad; and third, if and when it becomes necessary, the corporation itself will buy the hemp directly from the farmers and export it to the world markets.

The hemp industry is really one of the most important industries of the country. Even though hemp is now being produced in other parts of the world, it is still time that this industry is practically the monopoly of the Philippines. In the past, the hemp industry has been the mainstay of our government and of a large portion of our people. It was only of late and for no plausible cause that the hemp farmers have been unable to make a living, while those engaged in the exportation and or manufacture of this produce have continued to make money.

If we should succeed in giving the farmers their legitimate participation in the price that is being paid for hemp abroad, the benefit thus derived would mean the economic well-being of millions of men, women, and children.

I shall not be so bold as to assure the country that this corporation will give relief to the plight in which the hemp provinces find themselves. But this is an earnest and intelligent attempt to place the industry on a stable basis, and it is certainly a duty which the Government of the Commonwealth cannot shirk. We know that a large portion of our people have been suffering untold miseries because they have been unable, during the last few years, to make their living on this product. We believe we can do something to help them. And we hope that the means which we have adopted will bring about this result. We cannot just cross our arms in impotence, admitting defeat before we have

tried to do something which presents probabilities of success. That the hemp industry can be placed on a profitable basis is amply demonstrated by the fact that it is in that condition today in Mindanao.

It took me a long time, after the bill approved by the National Assembly had become a law, before I finally made up my mind as to the man who should be given the responsibility of carrying out its purposes. I am convinced that I made the best choice possible when I offered the position to Assemblyman Sabido. He is a man of unusual ability and outstanding character, and he has rendered a long and constructive service to the nation in the legislature. He comes from a hemp-growing province. He is familiar with the trials and tribulations of the hemp farmers. He has made a special study of their problems and of the problems of the industry in general; and in my opinion, he is fully equipped to assume this great responsibility. I wish him success.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Accomplishments of the Commonwealth and Government Aid to Philippine Industries and Business, November 15, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND GOVERNMENT
AID TO PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS**

[Delivered on the occasion of the fourth annual celebration commemorating
the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth
of the Philippines, at the New Luneta, Manila, on
November 15, 1939.]

Countrymen:

Today we are gathered here to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth.

This is the first government in our country headed by a Filipino who has been elected by his countrymen. Two stages have already elapsed in the term of office which you have given me to govern our land. Today, as we start on the third stage of my administration, we should look back and take stock of what we have accomplished as well as look ahead and see what remains to be done. I will not detain you long by telling you the accomplishments of the Commonwealth during the past four years. Your eyes can behold the great changes that have taken place not only in Manila, the capital city of our country, but also in all the provinces constituting the archipelago. I will point out to you today a trivial thing because it looks different now as you view it from the spot where we are now gathered. Recollect the past appearance of this place. Prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth, the Cavite Boulevard remained unconstructed and did not afford any facility to passers-by; today, however, this boulevard stretches far out to Pasay. Tell me now if we are not actually progressing, if Manila is not developing and our mode of life not improving. Within a short time, you will see a new city built over the region occupied today by the barrio of Balara and the municipalities of Mariquina, San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Caloocan. It will be a model Philippine city with streets as big and wide as the spacious avenues of the cities in Europe and America, and the Government will establish there modern communities where our laborers can live in a comfortable manner appropriate to their well-being.

Within a short time, likewise, you will see government tenement houses constructed in Tondo. These will be rented to poor fishermen who are today facing ejections from foreshore lands which are needed by owners for their own purposes. The construction of these tenement houses will remove the adverse effects of such ejections which, otherwise, would deprive the fishermen of their livelihood and force them to forego the only occupation they know.

Mindanao, a few years ago, had no accessible places except its seacoast towns. That rich island, until quite recently, was sparsely populated; and travel, although possible from one end of the island to the other, was fraught with dangers to life and limb. Today, however, Mindanao has wide highways which are so excellent for motor driving that passengers there do not entertain the slightest fear for road accidents, unlike those who ride in automobiles here in Manila or in the various provinces of Luzon. The island of Mindanao, with its convenient network of highways, is open today to Filipino settlers who wish to acquire lands which they can develop profitably.

I repeat, I will not detain you long by recounting the things we have already accomplished. It is enough to mention to you that in the past four years we have steadily prepared our country for national defense, a paramount duty of the people in case of foreign invasion. The opportunities given for public instruction have greatly increased the enrolment in our schools. Thousands of school buildings have been constructed and no less than two thousand additional teachers are now in actual service in the new classes that were opened. [Applause.] Above all, the Government has constantly called upon us to recognize and respect the rights and prerogatives of the laborer so that he may live as a human being and not like a beast. [Cheers and applause.]

We cannot, as yet, assert that we have fully accomplished the things we started. We must remember, my countrymen, that what the Government is doing now cannot be likened to the simple building of a new home, but to the construction of a new edifice on the site of an old one, which must require the demolition of the old structure before proceeding to erect the new. We have prevailing ancient customs inherited from our ancestors during the past hundreds of years when government autonomy was unknown in our country; customs regarding the relationship of one individual to another, of the rich to the poor, and of the educated to the illiterate, which we should reform. We cannot, however, change those customary practices in a day. It is beyond the power of anyone to bring about any changes in customs within such a short period. We have progressed considerably, yet our existence must continue to be with utmost faith in ourselves, and, although we cannot always achieve what we want, nevertheless we shall not stop until our persistence brings us complete and absolute results.

We should utilize the remaining two years of my administration in improving our economy and in placing all the means of livelihood in our hands. We spent the first years of the Commonwealth in erecting the foundations on which the edifice of our race shall stand. We also inculcated on the people and on the teachers of our youth in the schools that a sober mind and a decent living are paramount in the life of an individual. Wealth alone can not give strength and endurance to a country. Riches alone will not bring happiness to any person. But what will insure happiness to us is the thought that we are doing right by our fellow men and that they are not being remiss in their dealings with us. Hence, for our country to enjoy the blessings of a peaceful and happy existence, we must continue enjoining the schools to impress upon the minds of our young people the strict performance of their duties as citizens.

One of the reasons why the Philippines remains poor is the fact that the man who tills the soil does not receive his just profits from the sale of his crops. Take the copra producers, for instance. The lack of proper commercial facilities compels them to pass their copra through the hands of many middlemen before they finally sell it. Each one of these middlemen engaged in the copra trade derives profits therefrom, and their profits, combined, take so much away from the amount that should go to the copra producer. Likewise, it is not only the poor sales made by the planter from his copra which gives him financial difficulties, but also the fact that he pays more for his daily purchases than city residents pay for theirs, because such everyday commodities pass through so many middlemen first before reaching the market. To end this, I have caused a thorough study of the best plan by which small farmers may form co-operatives so that they can sell their products direct to the dealer without passing them through many middlemen. I have also advised the study of the means by which trading in commodities of prime necessity in the Philippines could be handled exclusively by Filipinos. [Shouts of "Mabuhay."]

I do not wish to stop foreign merchants from engaging in the wholesale trade; but it is now high time that *sari-sari stores* are placed in the hands of Filipinos. No one should harbor a grudge against us if we sought means by which the so-called *sari-sari stores* could be in our hands. [Applause.] Do you not know that under the present circumstances we, as a people, could be starved to death by operators of these *sari-sari stores*? If they should unite and decide not to make any sales or to have their stores closed even for a day, we would certainly face hunger. [Applause.] No people would ever consent to having their daily life's necessities remain in the hands of foreigners. [Applause.]

I am determined to remedy, by proper and legal procedure, such a flaw in our economic situation. I will exert my best efforts to put the country's retail business in Filipino hands. But, in so attempting, I will neither permit nor accede to the enactment of laws which will not recognize the right of foreigners actually engaged today in retail trading. We should acknowledge the fact that in the hundreds of years that have passed, these retail businessmen did not do anything harmful to us or prejudicial to our country. Hence, it is necessary that we respect their investments and their business operations; but they should not be encouraged to expand any further. I shall devise a way so that,

beginning this year, all municipal councils, including the Municipal Board of Manila, will no longer allow the issuance of a new license to any one who intends to open a *sari-sari store* if he is not a Filipino. [*Applause.*]

Likewise, in the public markets which are owned by the Government, there should be no other stalls except those owned by Filipinos. [*Shouts of "Mabuhay."*] We must do this today, because we ought to be ready for a future where in no one, except ourselves, would aid us in developing our national economy. We should have coöperative associations here. The hemp producers, the rice and tobacco planters, and others should band themselves together. The Government will extend help to these associations so that the products of their labor and farms need not be sold at ridiculously low prices, as what usually happens today. I repeat: during the remaining two years of my administration, I will exert efforts to achieve these objectives; help the abacá, tobacco and rice planters into organizing their own coöperative associations, so that the sale of their products in Manila or to foreign countries would be entirely placed in their hands, as it should also be with the wholesale purchase of the country's commodities of prime necessity. This, however, does not mean that we should eliminate the *sari-sari* stores owned by foreigners. We ought to respect these stores because they are already here, but we must also establish our own to insure the national economy of our people. [*Shouts of "Mabuhay."*]

My countrymen, I shall now conclude my speech. You must have faith in your Government. Your Government has no other desire except to secure the welfare of our nation. If I were only endowed with power like God, you would all have been rich people by now. [*Shouts of "Mabuhay."*] But because I am not God, I can not make you so. Be patient with what little work our Government is gradually accomplishing, and you will soon see the results of what I have been earnestly endeavoring to do at the outset of my administration. [*Shouts of "Mabuhay" and applause.*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Y. M. C. A. as Nonsectarian Institution, December 1, 1939 SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

Y. M. C. A. as Nonsectarian Institution

[Delivered on the occasion of the silver anniversary celebration of the City Young Men's Christian Association, at the City Y. M. C. A. building in Manila, on December 1, 1939.]

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It takes more courage than I have for me to attempt to make a speech tonight after the great ovation which Dr. Buencamino received. [*Laughter.*] Therefore, I shall be brief in my speech. Incidentally, I want to recommend Dr. Buencamino to the President of the University of the Philippines for a chair as professor of oratory. [*Laughter.*]

Dr. Buencamino's success reminds me of an experience that I had in the United States more than twenty-five years ago. General Bandholtz, former Chief of Constabulary and well-known in the Philippines for the magnificent service he rendered to our Government and people, invited me to visit his home in Constantine, which is a little town of about twenty-five hundred inhabitants in Michigan. One afternoon he asked me to go with him and hear a well-known preacher.

After the first five minutes of this preacher's talk. I noticed that he pulled out a ten-dollar bill from his pocket. He spoke for about ten minutes more and all the while he held the ten-dollar bill in his hand; but after another five minutes, I saw him put the bill back in his pocket and pull out a five-dollar bill this time. The preacher proceeded for another fifteen minutes, then the five-dollar bill disappeared and a one-dollar bill took its place. He kept putting in and pulling out his hand from his pocket, and by the time the preacher was through, General Bandholtz had only twenty-five cents in his hand for the collection box.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is only one thing that I want to say to you tonight. I am here to congratulate the Young Men's Christian Association upon the celebration of its silver anniversary. Mr. Turner attempted to prove that the Young Men's Christian Association is nonsectarian. I do not know whether or not it makes any difference if the Young Men's Christian Association is a sectarian institution. Certainly, I am here tonight not because it is a non-sectarian institution. I would have been here just the same if it were a Protestant institution, [*applause*] for it must be admitted that whether or not the Young Men's Christian Association is a Protestant institution, it is doing a good work, especially in its community activities, and if it is doing a good work it deserves my commendation, Roman Catholic though I may be.

If it is a Protestant institution, then, what the Young Men's Christian Association is doing should serve as an incentive to the Roman Catholics to do the same thing or to do it better. [*Applause.*] I am glad—if it is true—that the Roman Catholics think that the Young Men's Christian Association is a sectarian or a Protestant institution, and I hope that the Roman Catholics will try to do as much as, and if possible more than, what the Young Men's Christian Association is now doing. Let us have throughout the Philippines associations among the Protestants, Roman Catholics, and others which will do the work that the Young Men's Christian Association is doing. That is all that I want to say tonight.

Once more, congratulations. [*Applause.*]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on Civil Liberties, December 9, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CIVIL LIBERTIES

[Delivered on the occasion of the interuniversity oratorical contest held
under the auspices of the Civil Liberties Union at the Ateneo
auditorium, Manila, on December 9, 1939.]

Mr. Chairman, eloquent orators, ladies and gentlemen:

I am terribly disappointed tonight. Several months ago the President of the Civil Liberties Union paid me a call and asked me to be the guest of honor at an interuniversity oratorical contest which that association was sponsoring. I declined the honor, but told him nevertheless that I might still change my mind and take advantage of the privilege of the invitation. Not so very long ago, news reached me regarding this oratorical contest. I was informed that every oration would be a devastating criticism of my administration. So I sent for Mr. Tañada, the President of the League, and after reminding him of his invitation, told him that it would please me to address you tonight. I am still waiting for that devastating criticism, hence my disappointment. [*Laughter.*]

I am happy, however, to have had the opportunity of listening to these magnificent orations. I mean it. And I am even feeling proud because some of the best speeches tonight, I dare say, are the fruits of my own labor. I have been, long before I was elected President of the Commonwealth, listening to speeches of university students in oratorical contests. But this is the first time that I have listened to a speech advocating the rights of the down trodden—the tao.

I repeat that it is my work. It is the fruit of my daily concern for the peasant, the *kasama*, and the laborer. The speeches tonight have, likewise, given me hope that if these young men, among whom are sons of well-to-do Filipinos, stand here today and advocate the recognition of the rights of the poor, then my fight has been won even if only for the time being. But the present condition of the *kasama* is, as yet, not what I have been praying and working for.

I have listened to a speech warning our people against independence, on the ground that every liberty you now enjoy may be lost, while under the American flag you are not denied any individual liberty. No one has outdone me in giving due credit to the Government and people of the United States for what they have done in the Philippines. But I cannot permit any one to say in my presence that our people have enjoyed greater freedom under the American administration, or that our people will not enjoy their freedom under an independent Philippines, as much as they have enjoyed it under the American flag.

It is true, and I am proud of it, that I once said, "I would rather have a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by Americans." I want to tell you that I have, in my life, made no other remark which went around the world but that. There had been no paper in the United States, including a village paper, which did not print that statement, and I also had seen it printed in many newspapers in Europe. I would rather have a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by any foreigner. I said that once; I say it again, and I will always say it as long as I live. [*Applause.*]

But that is not an admission that a government run by Filipinos will be a government run like hell. [Laughter.] Much less can it be an admission that a government run by Americans or by the people of any other foreign country, for that matter, can ever be a government run like heaven. [Laughter.]

We have had four years of our government—the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines—a government run by Filipinos, and I defy anybody, American, foreigner or Filipino, to tell me that ours today is a government run like hell. I should say that this is the best government we have ever had in the Philippines, and I will now enumerate the facts to prove this to you.

We have been under American administration. I will not speak now of the Spanish regime because that already belongs to history. We have been, I repeat, under American administration for over 40 years. But when did the common tao receive the protection of the Government if not only upon the establishment of the Commonwealth? You heard American governors-general charge the cacique of abusing his power, but they were merely denouncing the political bosses, not the economic bosses whom they never went after. When did Juan de la Cruz ever have any chance at social justice it not only upon the establishment of the Commonwealth? Under the American rule, a law in this country authorized the imprisonment of the *kasama* who left his landlord while still peculiarly obligated to the latter. But it was Manuel Quezon, let me tell you, who did away with that law.

Is that freedom? Would that be freedom—allowing a poor tao who owes his landlord to be sent to jail—which you so proudly claim the Filipino enjoyed under the former regime? The orators spoke of the provision in our Constitution which permits the President to suspend the right of *habeas corpus* under certain circumstances, such as when rebellion, insurrection or imminent danger exists. From where did the Filipino makers of the Constitution copy that provision? From the Act of Congress itself. That was a power given to the American governors-general, and nobody here tonight had protested against the exercise of that power while it was in their hands.

Will you, I ask, have less faith in your own President, the man chosen by your own people, a man of your own flesh and blood? Will you have less faith in him than in a foreign governor-general? [Applause.] When was the right of *habeas corpus* denied in the Philippines, and by whom? It was denied during the first years of the American occupation, if you could still remember the concentration camps in Batangas. Did the Government of the Philippines, while it was purely in American hands, ever consider the Filipino and his existence as its main concern? When did you have a bank organized to promote Filipino commercial interests? When did you have a bank, the Philippine National Bank, organized to help Filipino farmers, Filipino industrialists? It was established only when the Philippines had the Senate, when we had Harrison, who, as our American governor-general then, permitted the Filipinos to govern this country. And it was because Governor-General Wood tried to undo what that former American governor-general had done that I said: “I would rather have a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by Americans.”

I have no objection to the realistic or idealistic reexamination of the Philippine political question if the reexamination is based upon the fear that we may not be economically self-sufficient or that we may not be sufficiently strong to defend ourselves against foreign aggression. But when a reexamination is premised upon the assumption that we will not know how to establish or maintain a democracy in the Philippines; when the reexamination is predicated upon the belief, theory or assumption that we will be more free under Americans than we will ever be under Filipinos, then I will say that it is almost committing treason. [Applause.]

I never expected to hear such an assertion from the lips of any young Filipino. I had expected to hear it from their fathers, from those who have known the Spanish regime in the Philippines and found in the establishment of American sovereignty in this country an agreeable contrast. Yes, I heard them advocating the continuation of American sovereignty in the Philippines upon the theory that America gave us freedom and would give us more freedom than we could give ourselves. At that time those who had so believed and spoken had not had occasion to see with their own eyes what the Filipinos could do if they were given the chance to govern themselves. But after four years of the Commonwealth Government, after seeing what we have accomplished, what we are doing or still trying to do for our people so as to make them more free and happy, for any young man here to say that he would rather see Americans continue in the Philippines. I should reply, “Make yourself an American citizen.” [Laughter.]

Perhaps you will say, “Well, we have been listening here tonight to speeches which charged the administration and the Government with having attempted or having actually curtailed the right of free speech or something.” But let me ask you: how many persons are in jail, if there are any, because they have not been permitted to talk? [Laughter.]

Miss Carmen Planas, permit me to retrospect, knew that she had the right to criticize anything. But when she made charges and not criticisms, which are two different things, she soon learned that when making charges, she must have the evidence to prove them. Miss Planas charged the Government and the President, by inference, if not by name, with having violated every law of the land in order to insure the election of the candidates of the Nacionalista Party. Well, that was not a criticism. [Laughter.] It was a charge, and all I wanted was to have her present her charges and prove them. But, instead of proving her charges, she and her lawyer resorted to the use of that well known legal procedure—postponement—and then kept on postponing the case indefinitely. [Laughter.] They never faced the situation squarely.

I am not averse to criticisms. I am here. I have come tonight, to hear criticisms. I enjoy hearing them, as a matter of fact. And I will reveal to you that I had originally refused to accept the invitation of the Civil Liberties Union to be their guest of honor, because in the different banquets which I had attended I heard only speeches praising me, and I have grown tired of hearing them. [Laughter.] That is why I am here.

Vice-President Osmeña should have been the guest of honor tonight. But I chose, for his own benefit, to take his place and save him from embarrassment. I knew that there would be discussions about our government. The Vice-President, you know, is a candidate [long applause] and I am sure the occasion would have been embarrassing for him, had he been here and heard this evening’s speeches. He, most probably, would not know what to do. Perhaps he would have been afraid to speak, because I have helped these fellows to criticize his administration. He would have had a nightmare. [Laughter.] So, just to save him from embarrassment, I came to take his place.

I want to tell you that the speeches of these young people have delighted me, nay, surprised me. How many speeches are delivered in defense of law and order and good government? I had never thought that these young men would pick such subjects as they have chosen to speak on. I am referring to the orators who did not say anything against the administration, because at their age one’s natural inclination is to criticize so as to show how brave he is. [Laughter.] Instead of critical speeches, however, I heard tonight such well-thought-out and well-balanced speeches as I had never heard before. I will not say what I think of the speeches, because I am not a member of the Board of Judges. But I will say that each one of them is good, including the speech of my friend, Mr. Albert. [Laughter.] Now, I will add just one more word.

When I offered myself to be the guest of honor tonight, I did not want it to be without any expense on my part. I was ready to pay for it. I told them that I would be glad to offer a prize for one of the winners. The President of the League consulted his colleagues and, after a few days, called on me with a rather tragic face. [Laughter.] Not knowing how to begin, he nevertheless went on to say that the League did not want to accept my offer. I am, to tell you frankly, rather an analytical man. I like to study people, their reactions, the reasons for their action or reaction. And so I didn’t say anything then. I merely said, “It’s all right. I will tell you why later.” And then he left, leaving me wondering why they did not accept my offer. If were inclined to think ill of my fellow men, I would perhaps say. The members of this Union wanted to prove that they have civic courage.” [Laughter.] They had yielded to my request to be their guest of honor, but they also wanted to prove that they could say “no” to me. [Laughter.] Now those young fellows would go to Tom’s Dixie afterwards and whisper. “We showed the President that we don’t mind him.” [Laughter.] As I have said. I never think ill of my fellow men. I am a good Christian and, therefore, I concluded that they declined to receive my offer because of that biblical saying, “It is better to give than to receive”. [Long applause]

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on reforms in the Public School System and cooperation of school teachers with the Government

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Reforms in the Public School System and Cooperation of School Teachers with the Government**

[Delivered during the luncheon given in honor of division superintendents of the Bureau of Education at Recreation Hall, Malacañan Park on December 10, 1939]

Gentlemen:

I have found that illiteracy is spreading- despite our system of public instruction and the increasing number of schools that we have. There must be a defect in our system. A cause must exist why we have not accomplished as much in the field of education as in other fields, considering the number of students that we have. My belief is that the fault lies in the National Government.

I have repeatedly stated that we have the most perfect government on earth in the Philippines; in fact, the best government in the world on paper. If you see our official reports you will say, "Why, this is marvelous." Everything has been properly attended to on paper. But when you come to analyze exactly what we are doing and the practical results that have been accomplished so far, you will find that seventy-five per cent of that magnificence in our government is bunk. In the reports you even find the number of agricultural schools. You go to these schools and you will find that the students have not learned anything practicable. Take the experimental stations of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The reports are wonderful! But visit them, and you will find out that these stations are neglected.

Several years ago I visited an agricultural school in Isabela. What did I find? Nobody was there. The man in charge of it was in Manila. Somebody was there to take care of a few implements. A little shack stood, together with a small camarin, in the midst of several thousands of hectares of land. I asked the boys attending that school if they have finished their course, and they answered me in the affirmative. I asked them the way to plant tobacco, and they explained to me the very method which their forefathers, were they still alive, would have instinctively used. That is not your fault. It is the fault of the Government which permits the establishment of these schools without giving them the necessary funds. For instance, the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce asked the National Assembly to pass a measure which would establish an experimental station in Bataan and appropriate P50,000 for the purpose. The National Assembly authorized its creation and gave him only four thousand pesos for it. With that amount, what could the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce do?

Our mistake lies in this point. The Bureau of Education or the Bureau of Plant Industry goes to the Assembly and says: "We want to establish agricultural schools or experimental stations and would like to have an appropriation of one hundred thousand pesos." If you desire to have a school that is fully equipped to teach the science of modern agriculture to its students, you have to get such amount of money. If the National Assembly reduces the appropriation, it would be much better to refuse to accept the amount than to establish the school, for by so refusing the National Assembly will know that the money appropriated for that purpose is not sufficient.

But what happens usually? A bureau chief recommends to the National Assembly by the establishment of a service, say, an experimental station. He says he needs twenty-five thousand pesos for the purpose. Instead, the National Assembly gives him only five thousand. Then the director says: "Well, that is all right." In such case, they give the National Assembly the impression that they have asked more money than what they actually need. What should really be done is to have the Executive Department ask for the amount actually needed.

I do not read the reports of the Director of Education, even if I want to, because I have no time to do so. But I take it for granted that whoever is specially detailed to do that job would call my attention to some important things that I should know.

It was only this year that I found that we have over-expanded our school activities. Seeing that the National Assembly has been appropriating too much money for schools even before we knew exactly what to do, I asked for information on the situation. For the first time I discovered that in view of this very rapid expansion, we have not been able to acquire the right kind of teachers for our schools.

According to Director Salvador, the standard of our public education is going down. I do not desire to find out who should be blamed in particular, but it would be more Christian-like if I say that it is the fault of all. We can say publicly that we have more schools now than before. But educational results and accomplishments should justify the expenditures of an enormous sum of public funds. You spend one hundred thousand pesos to educate ten thousand children, but the result is that you have educated only two boys and two girls. On the other hand, for twenty-five thousand pesos you can educate ten boys well. Certainly, you have done better by spending twenty-five thousand pesos to educate all the ten boys than by spending one hundred thousand pesos to educate only two boys and two girls out of ten thousand children. That is common sense. I do not have to be an educator. Herein lies the defect of our system.

I am not interested in the number of schools. But I am interested in the results obtained from having so many schools. If, as the Director of Education told me, our standard of education is going down, then we had better close the schools. Otherwise, do not expand them any further until you can keep up the educational standard with the present number of pupils. He also told me that the expansion of the schools is necessary because of the clamour of the people to have their children enrolled, and that the National Assembly insists upon appropriating more money for schools. Of course, our people have reason to ask for more schools. The assemblymen also appropriate more school funds because such appropriations mean more votes for them. But the Executive Department has the responsibility of rendering satisfactory and efficient service to the people, and not finding votes for the members of the National Assembly.

Some people believe that you can erect a school building out of bamboo, where the children can go and be taught by somebody. That which happened during the Spanish regime was, of course, all nonsense. I myself attended the public schools. The Department of Public Instruction, rightly or wrongly, has given the people the impression that by building these schoolhouses, they can attend school; and, because we did not want the people to lose faith in the Government, we authorized the establishment of these schools. Nevertheless, I have always instructed the Secretary of Public Instruction to appoint schoolteachers who are at least high school graduates and who can satisfy him that he or she is a material that could be developed.

From a recent report of the Director of Education, I found that he attributes the lack of teachers to the low salaries paid them. I do not agree with him in that respect. That does not mean, however, that I do not believe in giving the teachers better salaries. I think we have a sufficient number of schools in the Philippines which are provided with adequate teaching personnel. Besides, our people are in a desperate economic situation that thousands of young men and women would be willing to teach even at the present salaries of the teachers. I do not mean that we are already paying them adequately under the present scale, but I do mean that there are enough young men and women who can give the Philippines all the teachers that may be needed without the necessity of increasing their salaries. What I will say now is a practical situation. Children of the poor class who are normal school graduates would find themselves safe from starvation, if we could appoint them as teachers even at a low salary. When you speak of the salary to be paid to public school teachers, what should be considered is the relative position of the individual who is to receive that salary.

If we consider the earning capacity of the average citizen, you will note that we have been paying high salaries in the Philippines. It is one of the things that we have learned from the Americans. It is the fault of the American Government in the Philippines. We have been accustomed to either pay or receive those salaries. The American people have an economic standing that can well afford to pay those high salaries, which are also paid in the Philippines notwithstanding the economic situation of the country. But this should not be the basis for the salaries we are to pay. Considering the standard of living here, the Filipinos should receive lower salaries than the Americans. But the Filipinos retort: "That is racial discrimination. Why should they be given high salaries when the money paid to them comes from the Filipinos?" That was the practical situation that confronted the American teachers before.

On the other hand, if the Filipinos take the place of the Americans, they demand a salary equal to that of their predecessors; so we have created a standard of living for our public officials that is way beyond the capacity of our Government to support. A remedy to this would be to reduce the salaries of those who are highly paid, but the pressure is toward increasing the salaries of those who are meagerly paid. If we raise the salaries of school teachers, we will have to close many schools.

Many teachers thought that they were the victims of discrimination when the pension system was abolished. But from its first day of existence that pension system was already in a state of bankruptcy. Why? Because it was given a retroactive effect, so that those who had served twenty years received the benefits of that system even without contributing anything to it, while the poor teachers who were now in the service suffered the injustice. Naturally, the system was bankrupt from the beginning. What should have been done was to pay pensions on the basis of the contribution paid. But that was not done.

The Department of Public Instruction should study in detail the means of increasing the salaries which the Director of Education has requested for the school teachers, by considering not only the present number of schools but also the number of teachers. We have already started increasing the number of schools. The Constitution ordains that the Government should make every effort to give all children of school age an opportunity to attain at least primary instruction. In this connection, this question should be studied: what would be the increase in the number of schools as demanded by the increased number of children of school age, and on this basis what should be the increase in the salaries of teachers?

I do not want the Director of Education to state again in his report that the salaries of the teachers should be increased, unless he is prepared to state definitely the total expenditure for the whole system of education in the Philippines. It is all right to ask for more funds if you know at least the ultimate financial responsibility the system would entail. But you cannot do that unless you know where you are going. When the Director of Education is prepared to inform me—and he should know it—on the increase in the school population year after year during the next ten years, the number of schools and teachers to be required due to this increase, as well as their meaning in terms of pesos and centavos, and what it would mean if any increase in salary is put into effect, then the whole thing may be considered. In fact, the Government of the Philippines has been spending all it can afford for the education demanded by the people.

The other day when I was discussing the amendments to the Constitution with the provincial governors, one of them said: “Mr. President, if you want to have these amendments pushed through, promise the people more schools.” I answered him: “No, I am not going to do that. I am not interested in becoming popular. I am more interested in letting the people know the truth and doing for them what I really can do. I am more concerned about the service that I can render to our country than about my popularity. I will not get the applause of the people through deceit or waste of public funds.”

I can authorize the establishment of a schoolhouse for every family in every village of the country. But I will only do that if I have the teachers, the books, and the implements necessary to give the children the instruction that they should receive. That is my way. I will only permit the establishment of schools if we can make the parents believe that their children would not be wasting their time by enrolling in them. That is why I will not increase the number of schools until I am aware that the Government is in a position to give real schools.

You know that I changed the Government’s policy of not authorizing the construction of schools unless they be made of cement or of strong materials. It is not the kind of materials used in the construction of a school that produces results. It makes no difference to me whether the school-house is made of bamboo, cement, gold, or silver, provided that the children therein are amply protected from both rain and sun, have plenty of fresh air, and are properly seated. What counts most is the quality of teachers.

Gentlemen, I want your coöperation on the things that I want to say now. It will be much better for us to have less schools and less children if we can only increase the literacy of the people, rather than have many schools without producing results. But above all, I am interested in getting boys and girls who are capable of doing something, and who understand life and its responsibilities. The problem of our Government is to give practical education to our

children. They should be inspired to do things which their parents are doing. I hope that such would be the mental attitude of the children now in school. I wonder if these children have learned to love life on the farm. It is human nature to instill in the hearts of our young men and women who go to school the love for life on the farm, provided that such life will not mean an idle life spent in sleep, but a life as lived by their parents. That is why I am so much interested in getting a better living for the *kasamas* or hacienda men, although it will take time to accomplish it.

I am, however, afraid that I am accomplishing one very undesirable result in this line, for I see that these poor *kasamas* are now taking the law in their hands. That is why the Government is going slowly in the enforcement of its laws. This brings me to a point of the subject I am discussing.

You know, teachers can be made a powerful factor in helping the Government in this respect. I want the teachers—I told Secretary Bocobo and Director Salvador about this—to live the life of the community. I do not want them to consider themselves apart or independent of the everyday life of the community in which they live. I do not want them to consider that their work is done as soon as they leave school or that their work is just to teach. They should take interest in the activities of the children and their parents, in connection with a study of their mental and emotional reactions. Of course, I do not want them to be involved in politics; I told you that many times. But they should take special interest in public questions. Although politics and public questions are almost similar, yet they are two different things. When I speak of politics, I refer to the partisan side of a question, such as finding out whether you are an Osmeñista or a Yuloista. That is not the business of teachers. I want them to study and find out what is going on, what is to be done, what the Government is trying to do; and not simply say “yes” to what the Government is doing.

Speaking of criticism, it would be a good way if these teachers put down their opinion on certain things that we are doing in letters to their superintendents, who, in turn, should write about them to the Director of Education. That would be a magnificent way of knowing the reaction of the people to our policies. I do not believe that it would be good for them to go out and criticize our policies; instead, they should frankly and honestly express their opinion on the things that are being done. The teachers are our greatest help in reporting any injustice being committed by some crooked officials in the community. That is one way of rendering service and showing interest in the community. If a municipal mayor is a crook and he abuses the people, the teachers should report the matter to the proper authorities, but they should not make any public charge against that official. Of course, we should be careful in finding out whether or not the teacher is against him. Only the spirit of service should animate the teachers in rendering this particular public duty.

I have been told by members of the National Assembly that generally the teachers are antagonistic to the Government. If this be a fact, we should know the reason. I cannot believe that the teachers, like the Irishmen, are going against the Government, because if all the boys and girls who come out of school under your direction are against the Government, then we would be creating a government of anarchists. If that is the attitude of a few teachers, then they are perhaps guided only by selfish motives. I saw some of these teachers—men and women—and when I looked at their faces I could almost read what was in their hearts. There was nothing in their facial expression that revealed an unbalanced mind and a prejudiced heart. I did not see that. On the contrary, they are so simple and so willing to do something—nay, anything.

If the teachers are against the Government because of their present salaries, then it is a question of explaining to them the present situation of the Government. I do not believe that we should sacrifice the finances of the country because a few teachers wanted to have a few pesos more. Of course, that is simply being human, but that consideration alone should not make them antagonistic to the Government. Now, some of them may ask, “Why do the members of the National Assembly increase their salaries?” Well, there is a good reason for that. We must, therefore, concern ourselves with the instrumentalities through which our Government can reach the people and vice versa.

Once more, I want to say that I am not interested in personalities, much less in parties. By that I mean I am not interested in personalities or in parties to the extent of considering them of great importance. I do not, of course, deny that I possess the natural preferences of a human being for his associates. I have my natural affection for my own political party, but I have a much broader affection for all. My interest is to have a government in the Philippines that will do justice to all our people—a government that will win the confidence and faith of our people.

I am interested in having an individual get the support of the people, for once the people lose their faith in their government, they will destroy that government. On the other hand, if they lose faith in one individual, they can simply change him. But they must have faith in our political institutions so that they will support them. Of course, they will have faith in the Government if they see it doing justice to all.

It is, therefore, important that we should let our pupils know that what the Government is doing is not unjust or unfair to anybody. You, gentlemen, can do a lot. As a matter of fact, you are more duty-bound than any other official of the Government to help in our present work of creating a stable government here, and to instill on the minds of our people the realization of the tremendous responsibility that is ahead of us.

Gentlemen, I want your teachers to know that ours is not a fine situation today. While there is contentment among the rich elements of our population, yet there is a great discontent on the part of the lower class. At any time, we can have this small country converted into another Spain. But that is not likely to happen during the next five or six years. I do not foresee that because the United States is still here. I want you to know that independence is coming in 1946, despite McNutt and Romero. That is settled, so make up your minds. There is nobody who knows what will happen to the Philippines better than Manuel L. Quezon. And I am telling you what I know to be a fact: independence will come in 1946, reexamination or no reexamination. Many of our people do not take this seriously, because they believe that something may happen yet. I know that many do not want to have independence in 1946, precisely because of these responsibilities which I am discussing today. But it is coming, whether they like it or not—independence in 1946! The Philippines will be independent in 1946, even if the Philippines goes to the rats. So, what we have to do now is to bear in mind what will follow after independence is granted, for the situation will not be as safe as it is now.

I am sure you do not want to hear shooting somewhere one day while you are in bed. Nobody wants that. You, fellows, can help a lot to avoid that. Get your teachers to preach to their boys and girls on the necessity of maintaining peace and order. Use your teachers to counteract the effects of the irresponsible preaching of demagogues. Do it that way. Let the teachers take interest in their pupils and make them live the life of the community, so that the people may—through those teachers—see that the Government is interested in making them feel that they are a part of the Government and not aliens to it. Admonish your teachers not to be antagonistic to the Government and make them understand that if the Government were to go to pieces they themselves would go to pieces.

As I said once, these people who are preaching social justice are getting far ahead of me. I listened to a wonderful oration delivered at an oratorical contest held last night. As I listened to Manglapus, every fiber of my being was touched. That is the effect of what I am saying: these fellows are going a little bit too far. And if that speech were delivered in the native dialect before the tenants of Nueva Ecija or Pampanga, you can be sure that there would be a revolution the next day. Just imagine, he said that people have been robbed of their lands. Then he pointed out how these lands came into the possession of the encomenderos. Of course, this took place during the Spanish regime. All these ugly things were said by Manglapus, who was educated by the Jesuits and the Jesuits were the ones who were believed to be responsible for the robbery of these lands. [*Laughter.*]

Just three or four days ago, I went to investigate the complaint of the tenants of Guadalupe Estate. They have been living in that place since time immemorial; their ancestors had also lived there; yet these tenants have been required to pay from two to four pesos per square meter for the land which they occupy. This hacienda belongs to the Augustinian order. A historical marker in the Church of Guadalupe states that it was built in 1560—a few years after the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines. Evidently, those Augustinian friars took a banca and glided along the river until they saw that place and decided to stay there; and the friars became the landowners. Certainly, these tenants are the owners of the land, and yet they now find themselves aliens to that land. So when I heard Manglapus deliver that magnificent speech, I was surprised. Those Jesuits should not have permitted that boy to denounce what the friars did. They knew what the speech was and still they allowed him. And the boy was no fool—he prefers to mention “encomenderos” instead of “friars” although those words mean the same thing. And they tell me that this Manglapus is a son of a rich father. If we can get several young men like Manglapus and have them deliver that speech, we will surely have a revolution in the Philippines.

The Government cannot allow the people to take the lands belonging to others and then subdivide those among themselves. We have to defend the rights of those who possess Torrens titles. If you allowed people to grab another's lands which they could subdivide, they would not care whether the lands belonged to a friar or to a Filipino. If a man working in an hacienda for a Filipino sees the other fellows working in a land owned by a friar take the land and subdivide it among themselves, he would also insist on subdividing the hacienda of the Filipino. He is not interested in the land's ownership. If the Government, therefore, permitted a piece of land owned by a certain man to be divided, the other fellows would do the same.

The Government will not defend atrocities committed three hundred years ago. We have no money to expropriate them all. I cannot carry the burden of buying these lands and subdividing them among some tenants in certain provinces, because the rest of the country will not be benefited by that. If that were the case, a taxpayer in Ilocos Norte, where there are no haciendas, would be paying heavy taxes to enable the tenants in Nueva Ecija to obtain a piece of land free. We could do what the Mexicans did; that is, take over the ownership of the lands and give them to the people. But we could not do that as long as we have this kind of government here.

So, as I have said, this movement is going too far. I must tell you, however, that I have to stop this, because I cannot tolerate the situation. But I want you to know that when I start doing that, it would be like setting fire in a prairie, as every man and woman has a sense of justice in his or her own heart. What had been denounced was true. But our youths seem to be quite irresponsible for they take only one side of any question. They are now criticising me for talking too much and not accomplishing much. They do not see the realities of life; they do not see the things to be done in order to do more good than evil. I could easily start social reforms in twenty-four hours, but that would surely mean destruction to the people. You do not want to have a revolution here. What I am trying to do is to accomplish something in the Philippines which has not been accomplished in any other country; that is, to bring about social reform here without bloodshed.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on the Qualities of Hon. Joaquin M. Elizalde as Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States, December 19, 1939

SPEECH

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**THE QUALITIES OF HON. JOAQUIN M. ELIZALDE AS
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE UNITED STATES**

[Delivered during the banquet given in honor of Resident
Commissioner Joaquin M. Elizalde at Malacañan
Palace, December 19, 1939.]

Gentlemen:

I am very happy to welcome my old friend Commissioner Elizalde, and I want to take advantage of this opportunity to express my great satisfaction over the manner in which he has ably performed his duties as Resident Commissioner to the United States. Commissioner Elizalde has been chosen by me without any one having suggested his name. Having known him before, I had come to the conclusion that he was eminently fitted to do the work of Resident Commissioner; and even though I knew that his appointment would mean financial sacrifice on his part, I offered him the appointment and he accepted it. During his official stay in the United States, his business interests in the Philippines needed his attention more than in any other previous year for he had just suffered the greatest of losses, the death of his father, and yet he never hesitated to answer the call of public duty. He was willing to sacrifice his own interests in the service of his own country.

Incidentally, Commissioner Elizalde has shown and is showing our people and our Government that a man may not be a native of a country, he may not be born a Filipino, and yet he can be as good a citizen, as patriotic a citizen, as any native-born. I am, therefore, very pleased to give public recognition to the great services that Commissioner Elizalde has rendered our Government and our people. I could not have made a better choice. He is respected by all those who knew him before he was appointed Resident Commissioner. People in the War Department, in the State Department, and in Congress who had occasion to meet him were very highly impressed with his character and intellectual ability. I am not going to mention specifically what he has accomplished because his work has been publicized widely in the press, and I assume that every one of you is well acquainted with it. I am merely going to say that as long as Resident Commissioner Elizalde is the representative of this Government in Washington, I can rest assured that our interests will be ably and devotedly taken care of.

Gentlemen, I ask you all to raise your glasses and drink to the health and success—continued success—of Resident Commissioner Elizalde.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon on restating the Philippines' loyalty to the United States, August 19, 1941

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On restating the Philippines' loyalty to the United States**

[Read over the radio at Malacañan Palace and broadcast to the United States, August 19, 1941]

**PRESIDENT QUEZON
RESTATES LOYALTY**

**America Is Striving for the Same Principles
the Filipinos Cherish**

Mr. VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE
and PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

I welcome the opportunity of addressing a few words to the people of the United States and to restate the stand of the Filipino people in this grave national emergency.

We owe loyalty to America and we are bound to her by bonds of everlasting gratitude. Should the United States enter the war, the Philippines will follow her and fight by her side, placing at her disposal all our man power and material resources to help her in achieving victory, for the cause for which America would fight is our own cause.

The United States seeks to defend the principles which we cherish and without which we could not live as a free nation. She is striving to preserve liberty and democracy and individual freedom, and these are things for which we, too, would fight and die. The United States is struggling to prevent the domination of the world by dictators and we, too, would fight and die against such masters. The United States wants to uphold the rule of right and justice in international relations and to safeguard the independence of small nations, to free them from the fear of aggression and subjugation by military powers—and we, too, would fight and die to save our country from such threats and perils. And so, if the United States decides to enter this war, it will be our war as much as the war of the United States, and her decision will be our decision. In such event, she will find all the people of this country to the last man on her side, fighting under her banner and praying to Almighty God for the victory of her arms.

Our stake in this war is more than the continued existence of democracy and individual freedom in the world. It is more than the maintenance of a free economy and free commercial intercourse among nations, and an unregimented social life. Our stake in this war is our own future independence and the assurance that independence will endure.

We are endeavoring to the full measure of our resources to hasten the execution of our national defense program. The United States, I am happy to say, is also doing everything to strengthen the military defenses of our country. I trust that very soon it will be possible for the Government of the United States to send us more planes and more guns and ammunition to increase our power of resistance against invasion. We only need more equipment and more supplies, for we have abundant man power. We have strong, intelligent young men who are eager to join the ranks for our defense and to uphold the principles which President Roosevelt has proclaimed to the world.

The Commonwealth Government has been working in intimate collaboration with United States High Commissioner Sayre and especially with Lieut. Gen. MacArthur in carrying out our national defense program, and I wish to make

public my appreciation of the splendid spirit of cooperation which has been patent in my dealings with the civil and military authorities of the United States. Above all, I wish to express our gratitude for the interest which President Roosevelt and the American Government have shown in the defense of the Philippines.

Mr. Vice President, in conclusion, I wish to assure you and the people of the United States that we are with America in life and in death.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Radio Address of the President of the Philippines to the United States. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (8), 1609-1610.

Address of President Quezon on the occasion of the observance of the sixth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, November 15, 1941

**Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the observance of the sixth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Luneta, November 15, 1941]

Mr. HIGH COMMISSIONER, MY FELLOW CITIZENS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Six years ago today the Government of the Commonwealth was inaugurated with solemn ceremonies and in the presence of high dignitaries of the United States. As we gather to commemorate that great event, the thought uppermost in our minds is our gratitude to America and the preservation of our liberties. These liberties we shall defend with our lives and our fortunes, for they alone can be the bountiful source of our welfare and happiness, and the instruments of our safety and power.

I assumed the Presidency under a provision of our Constitution which prohibits the President from succeeding himself and limits his term of office to six years. It was my desire repeatedly expressed to relinquish my post upon the expiration of my term on December 30 of this year, but the Constitution was amended to allow the President to be reelected for another term, and, contrary to my wishes, you, my beloved countrymen, have just reelected me by a majority so overwhelming, even larger than when you first elevated me to that high office, that I must regard your decision as an imperative mandate which I can neither question nor evade. I am deeply touched and grateful for this evidence of your faith and trust in my leadership during these grave and perilous times. I can only say, in appreciation of your confidence, that I am ready to give the last measure of devotion to safeguard your freedom, your security, and your happiness.

I shall not dwell upon the policies or accomplishments of my administration during the last six years, but I do want to refer to what has been done in relation to our national defense which is at once the primary right and the supreme duty of every government.

Strange as it may now appear, in the beginning, hardly anyone, whether in the Philippines or in the United States, believed in the wisdom or feasibility of our program of national defense, except President Roosevelt, General MacArthur and myself, and a few others. It is true that the first law approved by the National Assembly was the National Defense Act, but this law was passed by that august body more as a vote of confidence in my leadership than because there was any definite conviction among a majority of its members that the plan recommended by me upon the advice of General MacArthur was of any positive or practical value. On the other hand, a number of high ranking officers of the United States Army frankly told me that in their opinion it was a waste of time and money for the Philippines to attempt to defend itself against an attack by a first-class military power. The so-called "civil liberties" unions, both in our homeland and in the United States, together with the "peace at any price" organizations in America, assailed me bitterly with the charge that the real purpose behind the national defense program was to establish here a dictatorship, backed by an army useless as an instrument of national defense and good only as a means to suppress freedom. Despite this diffidence and misrepresentations, we went ahead. With the unstinted support of the Filipino people and the effective assistance of President Roosevelt, through the War Department of the United States, we have achieved rapid and commendable progress in the execution of the program. And now, the foresight, the wisdom, and the effectiveness of our national defense preparations are being clearly demonstrated.

Formerly it was the common belief, never denied from authoritative sources, that the United States did not intend to defend the Philippines in case of war. Heretofore, the assumption was that the ultimate fate of the Philippines would depend not upon its defense during the conflict but rather upon the final outcome of the war. This meant that the

Philippines would be left, wholly or in part, to be occupied by the enemy until the United States had achieved complete victory elsewhere, when it would then be retaken.

I do not think that I would be far from the truth if I assert that, thanks to our national defense program and its efficient execution, the Government of the United States has at last decided to defend the Philippines with the help and cooperation of our army and our people. That the United States did not previously adopt this decision was not motivated by a reluctance to discharge its responsibility to safeguard our territorial integrity or to protect our people from unjustified aggression, but rather because it was not considered strategically feasible to insure our defense with forces that had to come exclusively from America. Presently, however, with our growing army, and assured of our determination to fight for our liberties and our homes and of our unswerving loyalty to America and her ideals, the United States has gained the conviction with our joint efforts, liberty and democracy can successfully resist aggression on our soil.

Not long ago I received a letter from President Roosevelt expressing gratification over the reports on the success of our defense preparations, and informing me of the increased belief in the United States that the Philippines can be adequately defended.

The choice of General MacArthur as the commanding general of the new Far East Command is, to my mind, not only a new recognition of the signal services rendered by this gallant soldier to his country, but also a full endorsement of his excellent work as Military Adviser to the Government of the Commonwealth. Enjoying as he does the confidence of both the Government of the United States and of the Philippines, his designation as the Commander of the American and Filipino Military Forces in the Far East is in my opinion an official avowal of the solidarity of the interests and ideals of America and the Philippines.

Thus the defense of the Philippines is entrusted to the common efforts of Americans and Filipinos. We shall do our share—for our country and for the United States, for liberty and for justice, and for the right of free men to think and speak freely, to worship God as they please, to work without restraint or compulsion in the pursuit of happiness, and to lead a way of life chosen by themselves.

We must not fail in this great task. It calls for total effort and total sacrifice. And it means now, not tomorrow nor later, when shells or bombs start falling upon our cities and towns, or when we shall be mourning at the sight of our burning homes or the mangled bodies of our mothers and children.

The Government of the United States with the full and wholehearted cooperation of the Government of the Commonwealth is taking care of the military preparations. It is incumbent upon us, all of us, who may remain behind the firing lines, to furnish our fighting men with food, clothing, and other supplies which they shall need. It is incumbent upon us to work harder and for longer hours, to produce more rice and more corn and other food articles necessary to safeguard our whole population from hunger and starvation. It is incumbent upon us to care for the wounded and the maimed and to train ourselves adequately to render that service. It is incumbent upon us to participate actively in carrying out the program of the Civilian Emergency Administration that we may give the required cooperation to our armed forces and protect ourselves from the destructive effects of modern war. Above all, it is incumbent upon us to observe the strictest personal discipline and to maintain peace and order.

Your government will call upon many of you to do a particular assignment in this common undertaking, and it expects you to do your part willingly and without delay. Those who are not assigned to specific tasks must be ever ready to answer the call of duty. The times are too ominous and too pregnant with evil to permit of delay or half-hearted efforts. Labor and capital must adjourn their differences until a better day. We must marshal all our resources in wealth, materials and man power to make the Philippines defensively strong and to cooperate with the United States in her gigantic effort to save democracy and banish totalitarianism from the face of the earth.

Mr. High Commissioner: I wish on this occasion to renew on behalf of the Filipino people and of the Commonwealth Government their assurance of loyalty to the United States. We have faith in the high purposes and the noble spirit of the American people, their government and their great President. In this crucial moment, their sentiments are our sentiments, their ideals and aims are our own, the freedoms that they are defending and for which

they will shed their blood are the freedoms which we cherish and for which we are willing to bleed and die. For weal or for woe, in victory or in defeat, we cast our fate with America and the great principles she is striving to uphold. We shall defend with our all this far-flung frontier of American liberty and maintain untarnished the honor and glory of the United States.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Address of President Quezon on the occasion of the observance of the sixth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (21), 4228-4231.

Radio Address of President Quezon on the occasion of the observance of the sixth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, November 16, 1941

Radio Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the observance of the sixth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines

[Delivered on November 16, 1941]

[illegible]

In celebrating the Sixth Anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth, the thought uppermost in our minds is our gratitude to America and the preservation of our liberties.

I shall not dwell upon the policies or accomplishments of my administration during the last six years, but I do want to refer to what has been done in relation to our national defense which is at once the primary right and the supreme duty of every government. With the unstinted support of the Filipino people and the effective assistance of the War Department of the United States, we are making rapid progress in the execution of the program which we have adopted.

The choice of General MacArthur as the Commanding General of the New Far East Command is, to my mind, not only a new recognition of the signal services rendered by this gallant soldier to his country, but also a full endorsement of his excellent work as Military Adviser to the Government of the Commonwealth. Enjoying as he does the confidence of both the Government of the United States and of the Philippines, his designation as the Commander of the American and Filipino Military Forces in the Far East is an official avowal of the solidarity of the interests and ideals of America and the Philippines.

Thus the defense of the Philippines is entrusted to the common efforts of Americans and Filipinos. We shall do our share—for our country and for the United States, for liberty and for justice, and for the right of free men to think and speak freely, to worship God as they please, to work without restraint or compulsion in the pursuit of happiness, and to lead a way of life chosen by themselves.

We will not fail in this great task which calls for total effort and total sacrifice. We are marshalling all our resources in wealth, materials and man power to make the Philippines defensively strong and to cooperate with the United States in her gigantic effort to save democracy and banish totalitarianism from the face of the earth.

People of the United States: I wish on this occasion to renew on behalf of the Filipino people and of the Commonwealth Government their assurance of loyalty to the United States. We have faith in the high purposes and the noble spirit of the American people, their government and their great President. In this crucial moment, your sentiments are our sentiments, your ideals and aims are our own, the freedoms that you are defending and for which you are willing to shed your blood are the freedoms which we cherish and for which we are willing to bleed and die. For weal or for woe, in victory or in defeat, we cast our fate with America and the great principles she is striving to uphold. We shall defend with our all this far-flung frontier of American liberty and maintain untarnished the honor and glory of the United States.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Address by the President to the United States over the radio on Sunday morning, November 16, 1941. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (22), 4368-4369.

Message of President Quezon to the Filipinos living in the Territory of Hawaii in connection with the observance of the sixth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, November 17, 1941

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Filipinos living in the Territory of Hawaii in connection with the observance of the sixth anniversary
of the Commonwealth of the Philippines**

[Released to Hawaii, November 17, 1941]

DEAR FRIENDS AND BELOVED COUNTRYMEN
RESIDING IN HAWAII:

Aloha!

I have listened with deep emotions to the speeches delivered by the orators who have taken part in the program, expressing the joy and gratification of the Filipinos in Hawaii over my reelection and reassuring me of their support and cooperation. I am profoundly grateful to you all and I want to assure you that the Government of the Commonwealth has always taken great interest in your well-being and happiness.

It also made me very happy to learn that you celebrate with patriotic fervor the anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth, for that important event is a landmark in our onward march to complete nationhood.

We are proud of the Filipinos in Hawaii. The large majority of you belong to the laboring class and have gone there in search of work. Others are either merchants or professionals and almost all of you have not only improved your lot but you have, besides, sent back to your homes and families in the Philippines savings which, in the aggregate, amount to large sums of money and these have been used in productive enterprises.

More than ever before, you must now conduct yourselves as befit law-abiding and self-respecting citizens. You must preserve immaculate the fair name of the Philippines and win for yourselves the good will and respect of those amongst whom you live.

In the Philippines we are at this time engaged in the supreme task of speedily completing our defenses so that should the occasion arise—which we pray it shall not—we may, in cooperation with America, defend the territorial integrity of our fatherland and the principles of justice and liberty which we profess and which the United States is determined to defend.

As you know, on behalf of the Government and people of the Philippines, I have placed at the disposal of the Government of the United States all our resources and manpower; and I am happy and proud in the conviction that our people, to a man, stand behind my commitment. Indeed in the last elections, while the different minority groups in the Philippines have criticized almost everything that my administration has done during the last six years, not a word of disagreement has been heard from those quarters or elsewhere as to the sentiments that I have expressed in voicing our loyalty to the United States and our determination to cast our fate with her. We can truthfully say, then, that the Filipinos stand united in the face of the crisis which confronts the nation, and I am confident that if and when words have to be translated into deeds, not a single one among us will be found lagging behind.

In the speech which I delivered on the Luneta after the mammoth parade which we held, climaxing the celebration of the sixth anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth, I said, addressing the High Commissioner of the United States in the Philippines:

“I wish on this occasion to renew on behalf of the Filipino people and of the Commonwealth Government their assurance of loyalty to the United States. We have faith in the high purposes and the noble spirit of the American people, their government, and their great President. In this crucial moment, their sentiments are our sentiments, their ideals and aims are our own, the freedoms that they are defending and for which they will shed their blood are the freedoms which we cherish and for which we are willing to bleed and die. For weal or for woe, in victory or in defeat, we cast our fate with America and the great principles she is striving to uphold. We shall defend with our all this far-flung frontier of American liberty and maintain untarnished the honor and glory of the United States.”

I am sure that these words express not only our sentiments here in the Philippines but also the sentiments of you Filipinos who reside in Hawaii. Therefore, should the improbable happen and should Hawaii become involved in this war, I am positive that everyone of you will do his duty by the United States. We must show America that our gratitude knows no bounds and that we are determined to fight for her and, if necessary, to lay down our lives so that the ideals and principles for which she stands shall not perish from the earth.

My beloved countrymen: Once more I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the evidences you have given me, now and in the past, of your confidence and affection.

Aloha and Mabuhay!

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Radio message of President Quezon to Filipinos in Hawaii delivered last Monday, November 17, 1941. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (24), 4655-4656.

Second Inaugural Address of President Quezon

Second Inaugural Address of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines

[Delivered at Corregidor on December 30, 1941]

On November 15, 1935, I took my oath of office as first President of the Philippines under the most favorable auspices. The Philippines was at peace and the Filipino people were happy and contented. At the inaugural ceremonies held in the city of Manila, there were present high dignitaries of the Government of the United States, and a vast multitude of Filipinos deeply grateful to America and thrilled with the vision of a bright future.

Today, I am assuming for the second time the duties of the Presidency under entirely different conditions. We are in the grip of war, and the seat of the government has been temporarily transferred from the city of Manila to a place in close proximity to the headquarters of our armed forces, where I am in constant touch with Gen. Douglas MacArthur. All around us, enemy bombs are dropping and anti-aircraft guns are roaring. In defenseless cities and towns, air raids are killing women and children, and destroying century-old churches, monasteries, and schools.

Six years ago, there was every reason to believe that the Filipino people would be able to prepare themselves for independence in peace and without hindrance. In my first inaugural address, I outlined a program intended to lay the foundations for a government that will, in the language of our Constitution, promote the general welfare and secure to the Filipino people and their posterity “the blessings of independence under a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy.”

Our task of nation building was in progress when suddenly, on December 8, 1941, the Philippines became the victim of wanton aggression. We are resisting this aggression with everything that we have.

Our soldiers, American and Filipino, under the leadership of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, one of the greatest soldiers of our time, are fighting on all fronts with gallantry and heroism that will go down in history. In the face of frequent air raids which are causing so much death, suffering, and destruction, our civilian population are maintaining their morale. Despite the enemy’s temporary superiority in the air, and on land and sea, we have been able to check the rapid advance of the invading armies. America and the Philippines may well be proud of the heroic struggle that our forces are putting up against the invader.

At the present time we have but one task—to fight with America for America and the Philippines. To this task, we shall devote all our resources in men and materials. Ours is a great cause. We are fighting for human liberty and justice, for those principles of individual freedom which we all cherish and without which life would not be worth living. Indeed, we are fighting for our own independence. It is to maintain this independence, these liberties and these freedoms, to banish fear and want among all peoples, and to establish a reign of justice for all the world, that we are sacrificing our lives and all that we possess. The war may be long drawn and hard fought, but with the determination of freedom-loving peoples everywhere to stamp out the rule of violence and terrorism from the face of the earth, I am absolutely convinced that final and complete victory will be ours.

Soon after the outbreak of the war, I received a message from President Roosevelt expressing admiration for the gallantry of our soldiers and the courageous stand of our civilian population. Yesterday, the President of the United States issued a proclamation which, I am sure, will hearten our fighting men and thrill the soul of every American and Filipino in this land. This is the proclamation:

“News of your gallant struggle against the Japanese aggressors has elicited the profound admiration of every American. As President of the United States, I know that I speak for all our people on this solemn occasion. The resources of the United States, of the British Empire, of the Netherlands East Indies, and the Chinese Republic have been dedicated by their people to the utter and complete defeat of the Japanese War Lords. In this struggle of the

Pacific, the loyal Americans of the Philippine Islands are called upon to play a crucial role. They have played, and they are playing tonight, their part with the greatest gallantry. As President, I wish to express to them my feeling of sincere admiration for the fight they are now making. The people of the United States will never forget what the people of the Philippine Islands are doing these days and will do in the days to come. I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and materials of the United States stand behind that pledge. It is not for me or for the people of this country to tell you where your duty lies. We are engaged in a great and common cause. I count on every Philippine man, woman, and child to do his duty. We will do ours. I give you this message from the Navy:

“The Navy Department tonight announces the Japanese Government is circulating rumors for the obvious purpose of persuading the United States to disclose the location and intentions of the American Pacific Fleets. It is obvious that these rumors are intended for, and directed at, the Philippine Islands. The Philippines may rest assured that while the United States Navy will not be tricked into disclosing vital information, the fleet is not idle. The United States Navy is following an intensive and well planned campaign against Japanese forces which will result in positive assistance to the defense of the Philippine Islands.”

My heart, and I know the hearts of all Americans and Filipinos in this country, are filled with gratitude for the reassuring words of the President of the United States. My answer, our answer, to him is that every man, woman, and child in the Philippines will do his duty. No matter what sufferings and sacrifices this war may impose upon us, we shall stand by America with undaunted spirit, for we know that upon the outcome of this war depend the happiness, liberty, and security not only of this generation but of the generations yet unborn.

Mr. High Commissioner, may I ask you to convey to the President of the United States our profound gratitude for the noble sentiments expressed in his proclamation. The Filipino people are particularly grateful for his abiding interest in our welfare and for his pledge to assure and protect our freedom and independence.

Gen. MacArthur, there are no words in my language that can express to you the deep gratitude of the Filipino people and my own for your devotion to our cause, the defense of our country, and the safety of our population. I trust that the time will come when we may express this sentiment to you in a more appropriate manner.

To all Americans in the Philippines, soldiers and civilians alike, I want to say that our common ordeal has fused our hearts in a single purpose and an everlasting affection.

My fellow countrymen, this is the most momentous period of our history. As we face the grim realities of war, let us rededicate ourselves to the great principles of freedom and democracy for which our forefathers fought and died. The present war is being fought for these same principles. It demands from us courage, determination, and unity of action. In taking my oath of office, I make the pledge for myself, my government, and my people, to stand by America and fight with her until victory is won. I am resolved, whatever the consequences to myself, faithfully to fulfill this pledge. I humbly invoke the help of Almighty God that I may have the wisdom and fortitude to carry out this solemn obligation.

Speech of General MacArthur on President Quezon's Inauguration, December 30, 1941

[December 30, 1941]

[Below, apparently, are remarks made by Gen. MacArthur at the time Manuel L. Quezon was sworn in on Dec. 30, 1941, in his second term as President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. p.15]

Never before in all history has there been a more solemn and significant inauguration. An act, symbolical of democratic processes, is placed against the background of a sudden, merciless war.

The thunder of death and destruction, dropped from the skies, can be heard in the distance. Our ears almost catch the roar of battle as our soldiers close on the firing line. The horizon is blackened by the smoke of destructive fire. The air reverberates to the dull roar of exploding bombs,

Such is the bed of birth of this new government, of this new nation. For four hundred years the Philippines has struggled upward toward self government. Just at the end of its tutitional period, just on the threshold of independence, came the great hour of decision. There was no hesitation, no vacillation, no moment of doubt. The whole country followed its great leader in choosing the side of freedom against the side of slavery. We have just inaugurated him, we have just thereby confirmed his momentous decision. Hand in hand with the United States and the other free nations of the world, this basic and fundamental issue will be fought through to victory. Come what may ultimate triumph will be its reward.

Through this its gasping agony of travail, through what Winston Churchill calls "blood and sweat and tears," from the grim shadow of the Valley of Death, Oh Merciful God, preserve this noble race.

Never before in all history has there been a more solemn and significant inauguration. An act, symbolical of democratic processes, is placed against the background of a sudden, merciless war.

The thunder of death and destruction, dropped from the skies, can be heard in the distance. Our ears almost catch the roar of battle as our soldiers close on the firing line. The horizon is blackened by the smoke of destructive fire. The air reverberates to the dull roar of exploding bombs.

Such is the bed of birth of this new government, of this new nation. For four hundred years the Philippines has struggled upward toward self government. Just at the end of its tutitional period, just on the threshold of independence, came the great hour of decision. There was no hesitation, no vacillation, no moment of doubt. The whole country followed its great leader in choosing the side of freedom against the side of slavery. We have just inaugurated him, we have just thereby confirmed his momentous decision. Hand in hand with the United States and the other free nations of the world, this basic and fundamental issue will be fought through to victory. Come what may ultimate triumph will be its reward.

Through this its gasping agony of travail, through what Winston Churchill calls "blood and sweat and tears," from the grim shadow of the Valley of Death, Oh Merciful God, preserve this noble race.

[Re-inauguration of Manuel Quezon]

[December 30, 1941]

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Message to the Soldiers at the Front, January 3, 1942

The people of America and your own countrymen have been thrilled by the gallantry with which you have been defending our country. I am grateful and proud for the resistance you have offered against such tremendous odds. You have performed deeds of heroism and valor which will live in the history of these stirring days. The service that you are rendering to your people and your country, to say the least, is the equal of that rendered by our fathers who fought and died in the battles for our liberty. The President of the United States, speaking for the Government and people of America, in a recent proclamation addressed to the people of the Philippines, solemnly pledged that the freedom of our country will be preserved and our independence protected. He asserted that behind that pledge stood all the resources of America in men and materials. You are, therefore, fighting with America because America is fighting for our freedom. Our salvation will depend upon the victory of American and Filipino arms. America will not abandon us. Her help will not be delayed. The enemy's temporary superiority in the air, on land and on sea cannot last much longer. We must resist further advance of the enemy until assistance arrives and I trust it will be soon. The outcome of the battle of the Philippines will depend in very large measure on your firm and unyielding resistance.

I am aware of your sufferings, your privations, your sacrifices, and the dangers to which you are exposed. All these weigh heavily upon my mind, but I am consoled by the fact that I am sharing with you your trials and tribulations. Indeed, right now bombs are falling near me just as they must fall around you. But we cannot allow them either to daunt our spirit or weaken our determination to continue fighting to the bitter end. We must stand by our plighted word, by the loyalty that we have pledged to America, and by our devotion to freedom, democracy, and our liberty. We are fighting that the Filipino people may be the masters of their own destiny and that every Filipino not only of this generation but of the generations to come may be able to live in peace and tranquility in the full enjoyment of liberty and freedom. Your duty—our duty—is to fight and resist until the invader is driven from our land. You must not give up a foot of ground when the battle joins. You must hold in place—and hold and hold.

Message of President Quezon to the Filipino soldiers in Spanish version, January 3, 1942

A LOS SOLDADOS FILIPINOS EN EL FRENTE:

La gallardia con que habeis defendido nuestro pais ha conmovido al pueblo americano y a vuestros compatriotas. Me siento agradecido y orgulloso ante la resistencia que habeis ofrecido a traves de tan enormes desventajas. Vuestras gestas heroicas y vuestro valor exaltaran la historia de estos dias criticos. Estais prestando al pais el mismo servicio que nuestros padres que un dia dieron sus vidas por nuestra libertad.

El Presidente de los Estados Unidos, en nombre del gobierno y pueblo americano, con ocasion de su reciente proclama para el pueblo filipino, hizo solemne promesa que la libertad de nuestro pais seria mantenida, y nuestra independencia protegida, aunque para tal cumplimiento fueran menester todos los recursos de America en hombres y en riqueza. Estais, por tanto, luchando al lado de America porque America esta luchando por nuestra libertad. Nuestra redencion final dependera del triunfo de las fuerzas americanas y filipinas.

America no nos abandonara. Su ayuda no se hara esperar demasiado. El domino del enemigo en el aire, tierra y mar, es tan solo momentaneo y no puede perdurar. Preciso es que opongamos a todo nuevo avance del enemigo hasta que llegue la ayuda que confio ha de llegar pronto. De la tenacidad y resistencia con que defendais este valuarte, dependera el resultado de la batalla de Filipinas,

Me hago cargo de los sufrimientos, privaciones, sacrificios y peligros que arrastrais y eso me contrista. Mi unico consuelo es hallarme compartiendo tambien vuestros mismos vicisitudes. De hecho, mientras escribo estas lineas percibo el tronar de las bombas enemigas que caen cerca de mi, del mismo modo que deben de estar cayendo alrededor vuestro. Estas no deben, sin embargo, desmoralizarnos ni hacer ceder nuestra determinacion de continuar luchando hasta el final. Tenemos que hacer honra a nuestra palabra empeñada de mantener viva la lealtad que hemos prometido a America, y perseverar en nuestra devocion a los ideales de libertad, democracia e independencia. Estamos luchando para asegurar que el pueblo filipino rija sus destinos en el futuro, y para que cada Filipino, no solo de esta generacion sino de las generaciones venideras, pueda vivir en paz y tranquilidad, el pleno goce de la libertad. Vuestro deber — el deber de todos nosotros — es luchar y resistir hasta que el invasor sea expulsado de nuestro suelo patrio. No debeis retroceder ni un solo palmo de terreno. Debeis manteneros firmes — firmes — firmes!

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Official Radio Script of the Message of President Quezon on his expression of gratitude to the President of the United States

OFFICIAL RADIO

Headquarters U. S. Army
Forces in the Far East,
For Mills, P. I.,

February 12, 1942.

CARL H. SEALS,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
Adjutant General.

SECRET PRIORITY

GENERAL
WAR DEPARTMENT

GEORGE

C.

MARSHAL

The following message is from President Quezon QUOTE The President of the United States COLON I wish to thank you for your prompt answer to the proposal which I submitted to you with the unanimous approval of my War Cabinet X We fully appreciate the reasons upon which your decision is based and we are abiding by it Signed Quezon UNQUOTE END

MACARTHUR

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OE
20 AUG. 75

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). [Official radio script of President Manuel L. Quezon on expressing gratitude to the President of the United States]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Message of President Quezon on his liberation efforts, May 8, 1942

**Talk
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On his liberation efforts**

[Shortwave to the Philippine Islands, May 8, 1942]

I speak to my fellow countrymen in the Philippines.

I speak to you, my people, as your servant—the one elected by you to work for you in the capacity of Chief Executive.

And it is as your servant—your chosen representative—that I am on my way to confer with the President of the United States. President Roosevelt is determined that the armed forces of the United States shall return in triumph to the Philippines—shall drive out the Japanese oppressor—shall fulfill the United States pledge of independence for the Philippines. I shall discuss with Mr. Roosevelt the means by which this goal can most speedily be accomplished. I, and your other representatives who have accompanied me, shall work every minute of every hour, every hour of every day, for the liberation of you, my people.

I have recently departed from the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur in Australia. General MacArthur, like President Roosevelt and like myself, is pledged to the proposition that the Japanese must and shall be driven out of the Philippines. General MacArthur will not fail. He will keep his promise to return. Already, we see great military and naval strengthening of the United Nations forces in the Pacific war theater. We see shattering blows being struck at the Japanese war forces. These blows are but the beginning.

I know that you in our homeland are now saddened. Saddened by the fact that our beautiful Capital, Manila, is in Japanese hands. Saddened that our heroic Filipino and American soldiers were, after perhaps the most gallant military stand in history, overcome by exhaustion and sheer weight of numbers. Saddened that the glorious resistance on Corregidor has inevitably ended.

I share your sadness—more deeply, perhaps, than you can realize.

But our emotion of grief is transcended by determination and confidence. I know that you will keep that determination burning in your breaths. It is an undying determination that, though the Japanese invader may for a brief moment conquer—to some extent—your lands and your bodies, your minds and your souls remain unconquered, unbroken. Your minds and souls remain free. And behind this spirit, there lives in all of us a confidence that the day of liberation is surely coming. The great and free peoples of the United Nations will not permit you to remain in bondage. Led by their noble statesmen and generals, they will rescue the Philippines. They will break the Japanese yoke which now oppresses you.

Stand firm. Hold to your faith. The forces of freedom are on the march. The day approaches when you shall joyously welcome them to our shores.

Today, shortly after my arrival in San Francisco, I talked with about 20 newspapermen, representing the newspapers of San Francisco and the great American press services which provide news to all the newspapers of the United States. From their questions and from their remarks it was very evident that these representative Americans have the keenest and most undying interest and concern in the Philippines and in the Filipino people. It was inspiring to me to sense the great and unconquerable resolve of America's 130 million people—their resolve that the Philippines shall be redeemed.

I made this statement to the American press. This is what I said:

“I repeat now a statement which I have made many times before—that the Philippine Commonwealth will stand by the United States to the end.”

Let me add to this assertion now the conviction that the United States, as its great and distinguished President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has pledged, will not only stand beside us in our terrible plight of ordeal, but will dedicate its total might to the redemption of our homeland and to the dawn of a new day of freedom, dignity, and strength.

The enemy has listed me as dead. Hearing my voice, as you do at this moment, is, of course, proof sufficient to you that I am very much alive, and that this was merely one more of the flagrant falsehoods of our common foe. Not only that. I am feeling in much better health. I am here to work for you in concert with the leaders of our most cherished sister republic—the United States of America. We shall work together until the final day of liberation for all our peoples. God grant that this day shall dawn soon.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). Talk of President Manuel L. Quezon, May 8, 1942; Shortwave to the Philippine Islands. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

**Speech of President Quezon before the House of Representatives Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before the House of Representatives**

[Delivered on June 2, 1942]

The President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands entered the Chamber at 12:37 p.m., and was escorted to the Speaker's rostrum by the committee appointed by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Members of the House of Representatives, the coming to America of our distinguished guest today, our former colleague in the House of Representatives, is, of course, unfortunate, but as it was necessary we welcome him with open arms and with grateful hearts.

He comes to us as the representative of a valiant and a gallant race of people. When the true history of the times is written, the valor, the courage, and the fortitude of the people of the Philippine Islands will make a bright page.

I deem it a high privilege—it is certainly a great personal pleasure—to present the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands.

PRESIDENT QUEZON. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply touched by your very kind words.

Once again I find myself in this august Hall, where for 7 years I pled the cause of my people, their freedom and independence. The memory of those happy days, some of the happiest of my life, rush into my mind now, almost making me forget the sad plight in which I find myself.

I came to Washington in the winter of 1909-10.

On the very first day that I was introduced to the Speaker and given a seat in this Chamber, a stranger in a foreign land, I received a hearty welcome. And through all the years I served with you I was treated with not only courtesy but cordiality.

On the 14th of May 1910 I addressed the House of Representatives for the first time. On that occasion I described the splendid work that had already been done by the American administration in the Philippines, with particular reference to schools, sanitation, and roads.

I said on that occasion “I am glad—to be able to affirm that, under American occupation, there has been established in the Philippines a more liberal government; and the Filipinos have enjoyed more personal and political liberty than they ever did under the Spanish crown. These facts are freely acknowledged throughout the length and breadth of the islands, and my countrymen wish me most earnestly to assure the House, and, through them, the people of the United States, that they are grateful, profoundly grateful, for all the benefits that your Government has conferred upon them.

But, sirs, despite it all, the Filipinos are not as yet a happy people. You would ask me why? Then I will answer in the language of that great apostle of human freedom, Daniel Webster: “No matter how easy may be the yoke of a foreign power, no matter how lightly it sits upon the shoulder, if it is not imposed by the voice of its own opinion and of its own truth, he will not, he cannot, and he means not to be happy under its burden.”

These words I uttered in this same Hall 32 years ago. It took 7 years of constant pleading before I secured the enactment of the act known among us as the Jones law, in which the United States for the first time solemnly pledged the faith of this country to the independence of the Philippines when a stable government should have been

established there. Under this act the Filipino people for the first time in their history were to have a legislature of two houses elected by themselves.

Thereupon we began building, day after day, the foundations of a government that the United States would, in due time, consider stable, so that independence might be granted.

Later, in the course of a few years, another act was passed by the Congress which fixed the year 1946 for the granting of complete independence to the Philippines. Under this Independence Act the Commonwealth of the Philippines was organized and established, with a constitution framed and adopted by the Filipino people themselves.

I was elected the first President of the Commonwealth. A fine delegation from the House of Representatives, headed by its Speaker, and an equally fine delegation from the Senate, headed by its President, came to the islands to witness the inauguration of the Commonwealth. They came there to see with their own eyes the inauguration of human liberty which had been granted by the United States.

Mr. Speaker, from that day on the Commonwealth of the Philippines enacted those laws and executed those policies necessary to prepare the Filipino people to assume their responsibilities as an independent nation in 1946. The first act passed by the legislature, to create a citizen army, was recommended by me and known as the National Defense Act. The act was in accordance with the plan submitted by General MacArthur.

I had secured from the President of the United States permission to bring him to the Philippines as my military adviser in order to organize our armed forces. The outcome is the army that has just fought side by side with your own men in the defense of your flag in the Philippines. That is the army which has shed its blood bravely, nay, willingly, so that it might show to the United States the gratitude of our people for the just and wise policy that you have adopted and followed in your dealings with us.

I am not going to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what the armies in the Philippines, Americans and Filipinos alike, have done. You have read of all that in your press. Nor am I going to dwell at length upon the gallantry, the heroism, and the wonderful leadership of Douglas MacArthur.

You well know that in those dark and terrible days there were many other men, too, who deserve your recognition. There was, of course, General Wainwright, whose tragic responsibility it was at last to surrender Corregidor. He, too, has been a hero throughout the war, from the first day to the last. And there were other American officers and, may I say, some Filipinos also.

There was General Lim, a West Pointer, the first Filipino to graduate from that famous military academy, and there was General Capinpin, who had risen from the ranks. I might mention many other gallant Filipinos, but the names of Lim and Capinpin alone would be enough to cover with glory the military history of my country.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard of the gallant achievements of many Americans and Filipinos during the war. To me perhaps the most striking act of heroism was one that has not been publicized enough. It is the story of a Filipino mess sergeant. You would expect a general, an officer, even a soldier of the line, to be a hero. That is his duty; that is what he is there for. But a cook; the duty of a cook is to feed his men. He is not supposed to be on the firing line. He is supposed to be as far removed from the bullets as possible, so that the men for whom he provides food may be duly taken care of.

I shall read to you the citation for the award of the Medal of Honor:

AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918, a Medal of Honor was awarded by the War Department in the name of Congress to Jose Calugas, sergeant, Battery B. Eighty-eighth

Field Artillery, Philippine Scouts, United States Army. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy at Culis, Bataan Province, P. I., January 16, 1942. When the battery gun position was shelled and bombed until one piece was put out of action and casualties caused the removal of the remaining cannoneers to shelter, Sergeant Calugas, mess sergeant of another battery, voluntarily and of his own accord proceeded 1,000 yards across the shell swept area to the gun position and joined the volunteer gun squad, which fired effectively on the enemy, although heavy bombing and shelling of the position continued.

He deserves the Congressional Medal,' Mr. Speaker. I am positive that in the whole history of the war there has never been a cook who felt it his duty or even his privilege to run 1,000 yards into an almost hand-to-hand fight. To me he represents the determination of the Filipino people to do more than their duty in standing by their mother country, the United States of America.

I am not going to tell you all about the war. I will not even tell you the story of my escape from Corregidor, a beleaguered fortress surrounded by enemy warships and bombed frequently by enemy war planes and heavy artillery. Instead, I want to read to you documents which will tell you of the recent commitments of the President of the United States to the Philippines, and of my own promises to my people. Perhaps these documents will tell you better than in any other way a very important chapter of the battle of the Philippines.

I left Manila on the 24th of December last. The enemy was bombing the port area of the city at that moment, just where I had to take and did take the ship for Corregidor. We arrived at Corregidor late in the afternoon.

I may tell you, however, that I went to Corregidor only upon the insistent demand of General Mac- Arthur. This I make of record, because I wish my people to know that I did not leave Manila of my own free will. As a matter of fact, I did not want to leave Manila. I did not wish my people to think that I was going to the fortress and leaving them behind. I told General MacArthur, when he first proposed that I go with him to Corregidor, "General, I don't want to do that. I think my duty is to be with my people. If they are going to be overrun by the enemy, I want to be overrun with them. If they are going to be prisoners and enslaved, I want to be a prisoner and enslaved with them. If they are going to be killed, I want to be killed with them."

But General MacArthur said, "No; that is not your duty, Mr. President, as I see it. With your consent, I have declared Manila an open city and therefore the Japanese forces will enter it without a struggle. Your Government must be saved. Under international law, as you know, as long as your Government has not been overtaken by the enemy they have not conquered your country."

Acting upon this theory, I left Manila and went to Corregidor.

On the 28th of December I received from the President of the United States the following message:

To the People of the Philippines:

News of your gallant struggle against the Japanese aggressors has elicited the profound admiration of every American. As President of the United States, I know that I speak for all of our people in this solemn occasion. The resources of the United States, of the British Empire, of the Netherlands East Indies, and the Chinese Republic have been dedicated by their people to the utter and complete defeat of the Japanese war lords. In this great struggle of the Pacific the loyal Americans of the Philippine Islands are called upon to play a crucial role. They have played, and they are playing tonight, their part with the greatest gallantry. As President, I wish to express to them my feeling of sincere admiration for the fight they are now making. The people of the United States will never forget what the people of the Philippine Islands are doing these days, and will do in the days to come. I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and materials of the United States stand behind that pledge. It is not for me or for the people of this country to tell you where your duty lies. We are engaged in a great and common cause. I count on every Philippine man, woman, and child to do his duty. We will do ours.

Gentlemen of the House, I have spent the major part of my public career in legislative bodies, I know how legislators react to Executive pronouncements of this sort. They say—and perhaps, speaking from the point of view of constitutional law, they are right—“The Chief Executive has no power to commit the people and this Government to any policy.” But I know you and I know your heart. I think also that I know the American people. I feel that the pledge made by the President of the United States will be considered by every one of you as his own pledge, and will be honored by the American people as a national commitment. I am confident that the country and the Congress will back it up wholeheartedly.

Three days after I received this proclamation from President Roosevelt I published this proclamation to the Filipino soldiers at the front:

To the Filipino Soldiers at the Front:

The people of America and your own countrymen have been thrilled by the gallantry with which you have been defending our country. I am grateful for, and proud of the resistance you have offered against such tremendous odds. You have “performed deeds of heroism and valor which will live in the history of these stirring days. The service that you are rendering to your people and your country is, to say the least, the equal of that rendered by our fathers who fought and died in the battles for our liberty.

The President of the United States, speaking for the Government and people of America, in a recent proclamation addressed to the people of the Philippines, solemnly pledged that the freedom of our country will be redeemed and our independence protected. He asserted that behind that pledge stood all the resources of America in men and materials. You are, therefore, fighting with America because America is fighting for our freedom. Our salvation will depend upon the victory of American and Filipino arms.

America will not abandon us. Her help will not long be delayed. The enemy’s temporary superiority in the air, on land, and on sea cannot last much longer. We must resist further advance of the enemy until assistance arrives and I trust it will be soon. The outcome of the battle of the Philippines will depend in very large measure on your firm and unyielding resistance.

I am aware of your sufferings, your privations, your sacrifices, and the dangers to which you are exposed. All these weigh heavily upon my mind, but I am consoled by the fact that I am sharing with you your trials and sacrifices. Indeed, right now bombs are falling near me just as they must fall around you. But we cannot allow them either to daunt our spirit or weaken our determination to continue fighting to the bitter end. We must stand by our plighted word, by the loyalty that we have pledged to America, and by our devotion to freedom, democracy, and our liberty. We are fighting that the Filipino people may be the masters of their own destiny and that every Filipino not only of this generation but of the generations to come may be able to live in peace and tranquillity in the full enjoyment of liberty and freedom. Your duty—our duty—is to fight and resist until the invader is driven from our land. You must not give up a foot of ground when the battle joins. You must hold in place—and hold—and hold.

I also sent to the President of the United States this answer to his message:

HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:

My heart, and I know the hearts of all Americans and Filipinos in this country, are filled with gratitude for the reassuring words of the President of the United States. My answer, our answer, to him is that every man, woman, and child in the Philippines will do his duty. No matter what sufferings and sacrifices this war may impose upon us, we shall stand by America with undaunted spirit, for we know that upon the outcome of this war depends the happiness, liberty, and security not only of this generation, but of generations yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I shall delay you no longer. These communications which I have just read show the effect which the message of the President had upon us, and upon the spirit with which our soldiers fought side by side with yours in defense of your flag. I shall not tell you, Mr. Speaker, I shall not tell the House of Representatives, I shall not tell the Senate of the United States, I shall not tell the Government and the people of America what they should do for us in

the days to come. All I want to say is that death, ruin, and destruction have never daunted our spirit or lessened our faith in the United States.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). Speech of President Quezon before the House of Representatives. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 4-7.

Address of President Quezon before the Senate of the United States, June 4, 1942

**Address
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before the Senate of the United States**

[Delivered in Washington, D. C., June 4, 1942]

FOREWORD

Upon the request of Senator Alben Barkley, majority leader of the Senate, President Quezon addressed that body Thursday, June 4, 1942. His address was brief because important war measures were pending.

At the conclusion of the address, Senator Barkley made the following comment, which coming from such high and experienced authority, should be recorded.

SENATOR BARKLEY:

President Quezon is an old colleague and friend from our years together in the House of Representatives.

Ten minutes of persuasive eloquence, stirring and obviously from the heart.

He has carried the flags of the United States and the Commonwealth high over his own Christian land.

Bataan and Corregidor demonstrated the gratitude and loyalty of the people of the Philippines. Their service and devotion under our own General MacArthur has resounded to their glory.

Odds of 10 to 1, separated from outside assistance, they fought and died under their leader Manuel L. Quezon.

President Roosevelt's promise of redemption has sustained him and his people, they know the Philippines will rise again.

• •

To my friend Dr. Arturo B. Rotor
with my affectionate
regards and esteem

(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**
June 19, 1942.

• •

THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID: Members of the Senate, ladies, and gentlemen, it gives me the greatest pleasure at this time to introduce the most gallant leader of a most gallant people.

Senators, ladies, and gentlemen, the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

• •

MR. PRESIDENT AND
GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE:

IT is a very high honor and a rare privilege that you have conferred upon me in inviting me to address the Senate of the United States, the greatest legislative body in the world. I appreciate it more than I can say, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

On August 19, 1941, 4 months before Japan attacked the Philippines, it was my privilege to address Vice President Wallace over the radio from Malacañan Palace in Manila, and, through him, the people of the United States.

On that occasion, I said:

In this grave national emergency, the stand of the Filipino people is clear and unmistakable. We owe loyalty to America and we are bound to her by bonds of everlasting gratitude. Should the United States enter the war, the Philippines would follow her and fight by her side, placing at her disposal all our manpower and all our material resources, however limited these might be. We stand with the United States in life and in death.

[Applause.]

Those words may have sounded then to some people in this country as more rhetorical than real. To the Filipinos, however, the sentiments that I expressed and the pledge that I made were known to be not only sincere but perfectly natural. What else could be expected of a people whom America has treated justly and fairly and to whom liberty and independence have already been assured through the Tydings-McDuffie Act?

Moreover, the tie which binds our two countries transcends all political and legal relationships. It depends not merely upon a written alliance, a declaration, or a treaty. It consists of spiritual kinship and relationship. Our aims, our hopes, our aspirations, are the same as your own. In the great moral causes the principles of righteousness, of liberty, of peace, the United States and the Philippines are in complete accord with one another; they are in absolute and hearty agreement.

There has been no question, therefore, as to the loyalty of the Filipinos to the United States, or the extent to which they would go in fighting for the American flag. I say "in fighting for the American flag" advisedly, for we fought in the Philippines by your side against overwhelming odds, not only to defend our country against the invader but also to defend your flag against the attack of Japan. *[Applause.]*

When you entered the first World War, although the Philippines were in no way involved therein, we offered to the Government of the United States one submarine and one destroyer, and also asked to be permitted to send one division to fight under your banner on the battlefields of Europe. That we did not have the privilege of actually taking part in that war by your side has always been a source of regret to us. However, even then, individual Filipinos fought and died in your ranks. I remember at this time Tomas Claudio, whom we have immortalized by giving his name to the training camp of our national guard.

Gentlemen of the Senate, since I arrived in this country I have learned that there is a war slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor." I approve and fully understand the slogan. The attack upon Pearl Harbor aroused every redblooded and patriotic American to a point where he can never be satisfied with anything less than the definite and complete defeat of Japan. *[Applause.]*

How about the Philippines? Of course, so far as their political relations with the United States are concerned, there is a legal difference between the position of Hawaii and that of the Philippines. Hawaii is as much an integral part of the United States as is Washington, D. C., or California, while the Philippines has already been formally declared by the Congress to be a distinct and separate nation, to become fully independent of the United States on July 4, 1946.

But, when we were attacked by Japan, the American flag was still flying over the Philippines, and we were still under the protection of, and owed allegiance to, the United States. Although in domestic affairs we had almost complete autonomy, in foreign affairs all governmental powers and responsibilities rested exclusively in the hands of the United States. In other words, you were then, as you still are, the trustees for the Filipino people in their foreign affairs. No one will deny that the moral and legal responsibilities of a trustee in the care and protection of its trust are greater even than those of an owner in respect to his own property.

Gentlemen of the Senate, I am not in this country to persuade you to send forces at once to the Philippines to drive the invader out of my beloved fatherland. Nor will I try to convince you that the Pacific is more important than the European or the Atlantic theaters of war. Those decisions are to be made by you. You will always have in mind, I am sure, that only in the Philippines has your flag been hauled down and replaced by the flag of the Rising Sun.

In view of this tragic event, I do hope that the American people in this hour of their great responsibility to the world will always keep before them the memory of the devotion and sacrifices of the people of the Philippines. Let me ask then, in turn, that your people adopt still another war slogan —”Remember the Philippines.”

[Prolonged applause; Senators and occupants of the galleries rising.]

[From the Congressional Record June 4, 1942]

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Quezon, M. L. (1942). [Address of President Quezon before the Senate of the United States]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Shortwave Radio Address of President Quezon to the Philippines

Shortwave Radio Address of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines To the Philippines

[Delivered on December 7, 1942]

My Beloved Countrymen:

One year ago today, without provocation on our part, Japan attacked our country. From that time on, we have been witnessing the loss of tens of thousands of lives of our best manhood, and many more thousands of our gallant soldiers are today prisoners in the enemy's camp. Our flourishing cities have been desolated. And you, all of you in the Philippines, are suffering the privations, the moral and physical tortures, of enemy occupation.

You have won the admiration of the whole world. And the government and people of the United States are proud of you and profoundly grateful to you.

On December 28, 1941, President Roosevelt addressed a proclamation to us in which he gave his solemn pledge, as President of the United States, that our "freedom will be redeemed and our independence established and protected." He further stated that the "entire resources in men and material of the United States" stand behind that pledge.

I came to Washington together with my War Cabinet on the invitation of President Roosevelt. The presence of your government here is the symbol of your redemption.

The first time that the President invited me to come to the United States was on December 30, 1941. That was just two days after he issued the proclamation to which I have just referred. I decided then to remain in Corregidor sharing with my family the dangers and hardships of our beleaguered forces. My presence there was necessary to maintain the morale of our Army in Bataan. Later, General MacArthur expressed the opinion that my presence in the unoccupied territory was of greater value to the continuation of our armed resistance. I, therefore, defied the Japanese blockade and went to the Southern Islands. There I visited some of the provinces, met the government officials and the people, took measures necessary to assist our armed forces and in every possible way, provide for the needs of the civilian population within the means at my command.

Finally, the fall of Bataan and Corregidor became a matter of time. General MacArthur was ordered to go to Australia to prepare the counter offensive in the South Pacific, which would one day result in the expulsion of the Japanese Army from our homeland and the liberation of the Philippines. I was asked by General MacArthur to join him.

With a heart heavy beyond expression, I then had to leave the Philippines, my dear Philippines. My further stay there could not be of any possible value to you. And it was my duty to save the government from being seized by the enemy.

From Australia I came to America in accordance with the suggestion of President Roosevelt. Since my arrival in Washington, the cause of our nationhood has been promoted. The Government of the United States, in its political relations with the Government of the Commonwealth has practically given us recognition as a self-governing nation. I am a signatory to the United Nations Pact in the name of the Philippines; I am a full-fledged member of the Pacific War Council; and President Roosevelt and I have already agreed to create a joint commission that is studying the problems of the economic and financial rehabilitation of the Philippines as well as the means of insuring our future security.

I realize that your main concern, now, is in the prompt deliverance of our country from the invader. But I want you to understand that the Government and people of the United States, and President Roosevelt in particular, are not neglecting you. You, above every other people and nation, are uppermost in their mind. The fact that in the early months of the war help did not come to us, the fact that after one year the forces of America are not all concentrated in the Pacific and directed to the defeat of Japan and the reconquest of the Philippines, all these do not indicate that President Roosevelt or his government and people give preference to the liberation of Europe or the defense of England, America knows that her obligation to save the Filipino people is greater than her obligation to save any other people in the world. Indeed, only in the Philippines has her own sovereignty been assailed, and certainly the paramount duty of America is to defend her own sovereignty and national honor.

The strategy of war is dictated by hard-boiled military considerations and not by the desires of the heart. This strategy compels the United States to distribute her troops and her supplies wherever the military men believe they will bring about the earliest defeat of the enemy. This is not a war between the United States and Japan only. This is a global war, and, in order to win, it must be won on all fronts before our victory is complete.

You know that my greatest concern is the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese invader. And you know me well enough to believe me when I say, as I say it to you *now*, that if I thought the United States was neglecting us, no power on earth, no threat, no human consideration would keep me silent. The whole world would hear my protest. But we must have faith—and I know we do have faith—in those who are responsible for winning this war. We must let them decide where and when the Axis should be attacked. Hard fighting is now going on in the Pacific and in Africa, and the tide is slowly beginning to turn in our favor. We still have very far to go. But do not lose heart. There is no doubt that victory will be ours—complete and decisive.

I only live to see that day of victory come. My heart is aching to be back with you again. I give you my solemn word that, because of your gallantry, because of your loyalty to America, because of your faithfulness to your own government, our dead shall not have died in vain. And our country will come out of this trial greater, nobler, and happier than ever before, with her peace, her progress and her liberty forever secured.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). Shortwave Radio Address of President Quezon to the Philippines . *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 8-9.

Message of President Quezon on Christmas Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Christmas Day**

[Sent over shortwave radio on December 24, 1942]

Fellow-Countrymen:

Merry Christmas to you all, wherever you may be. Whether you are living in the enemy-occupied towns and cities of our country, or in the mountains of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, or in the United States, to you all I say: Merry Christmas. Christ was born to make all men free. Thanks to Him, our freedom will soon be redeemed. Tell your children that soon the invader will be driven out of our land, and that Christmas will once more be as we knew it in the past—a day of gifts and laughter, of stars shining from the windows, of lights burning on the Christmas trees.

For the lights of freedom, justice and decency which we have seen go out in Europe and in our own land will soon go on again all over the world. Never before in this grim war has the cause of freedom been nearer to victory. The Nazi armies are bleeding white in Russia, and will soon be driven out of Africa; Wavell's army is pushing relentlessly towards Burma; down in the Southwest Pacific, General MacArthur is driving the Japanese out of New Guinea. Here in America, the American people under President Roosevelt have not forgotten the Philippines. The world cannot forget Bataan, and the courage of a people that fought against tremendous odds only because it had faith in the cause of freedom and decency. For this cause was Christ born: that men may have the freedom, the dignity, the happiness of the sons of God. MALIGAYANG PASKO, MGA KABABAYAN, AT MABUHAY ANG FILIPINAS.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). Message of President Quezon on Christmas Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 9-10.

Message of President Quezon in connection with the Observance of Rizal Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
In connection with the Observance of Rizal Day**

[Delivered in the United States, December 30, 1942]

People of the United States:

During the past forty-two years, you Americans and we Filipinos have been partners in the cause of freedom—the freedom of the Filipino people from all foreign rule, including your own. Yes, including your own.

When you assumed sovereignty over the Philippines, you announced that you came to our country to liberate and not to enslave us; to help develop and not to exploit our country. All the great powers heard your announcement with a smile. And the Filipinos themselves did not believe you.

After all, in the long history of the human race there had been no record of any people taking possession of another's land just to release it after awhile and then make its people free.

But from the very start you have squared your words with your deeds. And at last the Filipinos came to believe you. From that time on, we have worked together to make the Filipino people free under a democratic system of government.

When Japan attacked the Philippines last year, our common task was nearly ended. There was only one piece of unfinished business: The formality of recognizing the Philippine republic. And when the attack came, Americans and Filipinos fought side by side in the defense of your flag and of our own land.

What were those American deeds that won the heart and the faith of the Filipino people? Why were we ready to face overwhelming odds by your side, without flinching, and why are we determined to stand by you to the very end? Why did no less than 26,000 of our men die, with 1,000 of your own?

You have heard of American teachers brought to the Philippines in the early days of your occupation. You have heard of roads that were built, of sanitation improved, of increasing self-government extended to the Philippines. And, lastly, you know of the Independence Act which authorized establishment of the Philippine Republic in 1946. But I doubt whether you have ever heard of the one single American deed that practically turned Filipino opposition into Filipino cooperation with the United States. That single deed was the enactment of a law by the American Government in the Philippines which declared the thirtieth of December our national holiday in commemoration of the martyrdom of Jose Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines.

Jose Rizal was court-martialed and executed by a firing squad in 1896. The Spanish regime had sentenced him to death—for the sole crime of loving freedom and advocating it for his people. When the American Government in Manila made the anniversary of this martyrdom a national holiday, it became clear at once that in American eyes he was not only without guilt, but, rather, worthy of public recognition—that his devotion to the cause of freedom was as good in the eyes of the American people as it was in that of the Filipino people.

After the enactment of this law, every Filipino saw the sincerity of the United States.

Now let me tell you something about Jose Rizal, and why he had become the national hero of the Philippines. He was one of the noblest characters that the human race has ever produced. He was the very personification of Kipling's "If".

Rizal died when he was only thirty-five years old. For most men, this is the time when mature life begins. But, at this age, Jose Rizal had accomplished what few people in the history of civilization have accomplished who have lived out their full span of life.

He became a distinguished physician, a scientist, a poet, a writer, a philosopher. He wrote two novels, which swept through the Philippines with their words that rang out his passion for liberty. He read, and wrote, and spoke, many languages—not only Spanish and the languages of the Philippines, not only English and most of the European languages, but also Chinese and Japanese, and even Latin and Greek, Hebrew and Sanskrit.

But the life of our national hero was composed of more than scholarship and art. Rizal was, first of all, a patriot. From childhood, his thoughts, his deeds, had but ‘one purpose—the freedom of his people. And he died, a martyr to this cause.

We honor the memory of the death of Jose Rizal today. But it is not enough to think of what is done and gone. Rizal, on the eve of his death, did not think of his past life. He saw only the dawn that would come, and the bright day ahead. And he put his thoughts in a poem entitled “Mi Ultimo Adios,” which has no superior in Spanish poetry.

We, too, must look forward to that day. It will surely come.

Let us, then, think about the problems that will face us after victory is won. We of the Philippines believe that there is a lesson to be learned from the forty-five year record of American-Filipino relations. This record stands as a blueprint for those who wonder what should be done for those people who have only the dream of freedom. This record gives substance to the words burned into the hearts of the world by President Roosevelt’s declaration on the Four Freedoms. That declaration, as it stands, is a great document. But it must be put into practice. The record of the Philippines is proof that this can be done.

I believe the Philippines has another unique contribution to make to the cause of the United Nations. Our country has been the meeting-ground of the East and the West. We Filipinos are an eastern people. We know the minds and the hearts of the great peoples who live in our part of the world. But in the past four centuries we have come to know the Europeans and the Americans on equally intimate terms.

Thus, Filipino civilization represents the merger of East and West. In the Philippines, they have met on an equal footing, and the best of each has intermingled. We have been enriched by this fusion.

Clearly, if we are to establish a world of peace after this war, human beings of all nations must learn to understand and respect one another. The West must try to understand and respect the East, and the East must try to do the same for the West.

We of the Philippines can help by serving as the meeting-ground, as the interpreter between East and West. This will be our contribution to the free world of tomorrow.

Rapidly, we are approaching a crossroad in history. For us, the Filipinos, our road runs east and west. And there, in the East, where the sun rises, we see already the glimmerings of dawn. Already the gloom of night is softening and soon the new day will break, flooding us all with the bright sun of liberty.

Then the dream of Rizal will come true.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). Message of President Quezon in connection with the Observance of Rizal Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 10-11.

Speech of President Quezon before the Maryland Bar Association

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before the Maryland Bar Association**

[Delivered in Baltimore, Maryland, January 16, 1943]

MR.
MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND BAR ASSOCIATION:

CHAIRMAN,

I appreciate more than I can say your invitation that I be your guest of honor on this occasion, and I thank Senator Radcliffe for the invitation he has extended to me in your behalf.

Today, as you know, the Japanese occupy my country. But before they succeeded, we fought them to exhaustion, despite overwhelming odds. Even now there are still many Americans and Filipinos who have refused to surrender. They are in the hills, still resisting. We will continue to fight them until the American forces arrive in sufficient numbers to throw the Japanese out of the Philippines. We have not accepted defeat in the Philippines. The word is victory and it will come. The Japanese occupation of our homeland we see only as a passing—though tragic—phase of our history. Our eyes are on the future, and on the happiness and freedom which the future holds for us.

The record of the Filipino people in this war has been written in blood, and it is a record of which you and I can be proud. It is a record of unflinching loyalty to the United States, a record of heroic deeds. It is a record without parallel in the Orient, and—I may add—in the history of colonialism.

In the case of China, which fought and is fighting Japan with a courage and determination that is the admiration of the world, she is defending her own sovereignty and her own flag. In the Philippines, it was your flag and your sovereignty that were assailed. It is true that it was our country that was invaded. But so was Indo-China, and Burma, and Malaya, and the Netherlands East Indies, where the flags of foreign countries were flying. Have the natives of these countries fought the invader? Except for those who were enlisted in the regular armies of these sovereign nations, no one else among them took part in the war by the side of the governments to which they owed allegiance. Certainly, the people as a whole did not fight.

Why was there this vital difference in the Philippines? The answer is that, when we fought for your flag, we were fighting for our own freedom; when we resisted the invasion of our country, we did so because we knew the Philippines was our country not only *de facto* but *de jure*. And we were loyal to you, to your flag and to your country, not because under international law we owed you this allegiance, but because you have won our undying friendship and affection—because you did by us what no other colonizing-power has done by the people who had fallen under their sway. For you have been our benefactors and liberators, and the presence of your flag in the Philippines was the symbol of our freedom. It was there only to allow you to finish the work you had started to do—to help set up an independent Philippine Republic.

That is why not only the regular Filipino soldier fought by your side, but our own citizen army. That is why not only our citizen army, but the whole civilian population, to a man, answered the call of duty and did their part in resisting the enemy.

The immense majority of General MacArthur's infantry—that superb military commander—was composed of Filipinos, and 20,000 of our young men laid down their lives in the Battle of the Philippines—many, many more than the lives lost by their heroic brothers, the Americans.

According to official United States Government statistics, America has lost some 8,000 soldiers, sailors and merchant seamen on all fronts everywhere in the world—since the war began. In this figure are included those Filipinos who were serving in the Regular Army of the United States, and the total is less than half the number of those killed who were serving in the Philippine Army.

And now let me tell you why the Filipino people fought by your side to the bitter end.

By the time Admiral Dewey came to Manila, the Spaniards were able to offer only a token resistance. America's war against Spain was fought, in the Philippines, with the aid of the Filipinos themselves.

After the last crumbling remnant of Spain's Empire was forced out of the Philippines, the Filipino people felt that the time had come for self-government. Their hopes were not realized. And there came instead several years of bloodshed between Americans and Filipinos.

After the early years of bitterness and distrust, the Filipino people began to know and understand the real purpose of America. They realized that the American people were not embarked on a ruthless imperialistic policy. In the words of President McKinley: "The Philippines are ours, not to exploit but to develop, to civilize, to educate, to train in the science of self-government. This is the path of duty which we must follow or be recreant to a mighty trust committed to us."

Each American President who followed McKinley reiterated this thought in his own words. During the administration of Woodrow Wilson, the Congress of the United States enacted the Jones Law, which promised independence when a stable government could be established in the Philippines. This pledge America kept. Your own Senator Tydings, under the administration and with the recommendation of President Roosevelt, introduced the Bill in 1914 that fulfilled that promise. In the course of the debate on his Bill in the Senate referring to the war between Americans and Filipinos, Senator Tydings said: "That war was never intended. We (Americans) never intended to stay there. We promised the Filipinos that, if they would cooperate with us, we would stand by them and give them their country. . . . In heaven's name, is it too much to ask under these circumstances that we give them every chance to work out a just destiny under their own flag, and that they shall have all the assistance we can give them?"

In 1934, the Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed. The Filipino people will be eternally grateful to Senator Tydings for sponsoring this legislation. I repeat: The battle we fought on Bataan and Corregidor less than a year ago was fought because of the spirit that lay behind the Act which bears the name of the gentleman from Maryland.

It might have been easy for us to delude ourselves into accepting the siren song of Japanese propaganda, which told us that Japan was waging war only against the United States, and not against the Filipino people. They pounded the Philippines with this propaganda. But they failed completely, because we knew what Japan had done in Manchuria and in China. And we contrasted their deeds with what America had done in the Philippines.

Under your flag, we had tasted freedom, and no people who have known the blessings of liberty will want to live without it. Under the terms of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, the Filipino people had established the Government of the Commonwealth under a Constitution of our own making, in preparation for complete independence.

That is why the Filipino people fought. They fought for freedom. They fought because they knew America had made a promise, and that she would keep that promise. They fought because they respected themselves and knew that they—like any other nation—had a right to determine their own destiny as part of the interlocking society that is the human race.

All this, I am sure, was somewhere in the mind of Jesus Villamor, the young Filipino flier who led a squadron of six obsolete planes to battle fifty-four Japanese bombers somewhere south of Manila.

It was the impulse which caused the Filipino soldier to hold his own helmet over the bare head of General MacArthur while the shell fragments tore into his hands on Corregidor.

It was etched deep in the soul of the Filipino school teacher who preferred to die rather than obey the Japanese order to lower the American flag and fly the Philippine colors alongside the “Rising Sun” over his little village schoolhouse.

The school teacher was paying tribute to the solidarity between the United States and the Philippines—a solidarity that will live even when, one day soon, the Philippine flag flies alone over our school-houses. That will be on our day of independence, when the Philippine Republic takes its place among the family of sovereign states.

When our flag flies alone over the Philippines, your own Star-Spangled Banner—which has outlived the bursting bombs of Fort McHenry and on Corregidor—will always wave in our hearts, and your friendship will always be cherished by every one of us above the friendship of any other nation.

Here in Maryland, before you, the citizens of the Free State I want to pay tribute now to Senator Tydings, co-author of the Philippines Independence Act, and to all his colleagues in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. As for your President, under whose leadership the Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed, and who was co-author of the Atlantic Charter, his name will be written in history as one of the world’s greatest spokesmen of freedom and human dignity.

The tides of war and destruction have swept over the Philippines since the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act. Today a new situation exists there.

The years of peace and progress foreseen in the Philippine Independence Act have been scarred by Japanese aggression.

The Pacific war has taught us a lesson—both the United States and the Philippines. President Roosevelt doubtless meant this when he said, while the battle was raging in Bataan: “I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and material of the United States stand behind that pledge,”

I hope that we shall have the full support of both Senator Tydings and Senator Radcliffe in carrying out President Roosevelt’s pledge on behalf of the American people.

What America did in the Philippines in time of peace has repaid her well in her hour of peril and in terms of the esteem and respect of; all mankind. I speak for the people of the Philippines when I express our lasting recognition of America’s honorable and high-minded policy. Today, in the midst of war, the whole world looks to you to add even greater lustre to your name and reputation as the champion of human freedom.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). Speech of President Quezon before the Maryland Bar Association . *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 11-13.

Message of President Quezon to General MacArthur on requesting reconsideration on the money to be given to Peralta, June 12, 1943

TO: MACARTHUR

FM: QUEZON

4679 TWELFTH JUNE [1943?]

Peralta's message to you requesting reconsideration your decision to allow him P250,000 sounds bad to me. I am seriously disturbed over undue eagerness of Confessor and Peralta to dispose of large sums. Peralta seems bombastic, egotistic and ambitious beyond measure. I think he should be closely watched.

TOO 130420 K

TOR AT SIG CEN 130636 K

Regraded
Order Sec Army by TAG PER 90084

Unclassified

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Inaugural Address of President Manuel L. Quezon, November 15, 1943

Third Inaugural Address of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines

[Broadcast on November 15, 1943]

Today is the eighth anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. Eight years ago today I was inaugurated President. The achievements of our Commonwealth since its establishment I need not review for you know them well. Before the invasion of our country by the Japanese, we were living in peace, prosperity and contentment. Then the enemy struck, without provocation on our part. The shadow of death fell upon our towns and cities. Our people were maimed and killed, our homes wrecked or burned, our sacred shores trampled by the feet of the invader,

In Bataan we showed the world once more our heritage of heroism. By every nation's first duty of self-defense and self-preservation, we took up arms and fought the invader. No self-respecting nation could have shirked the challenge of that treacherous attack that started in Baguio on December 8, 1941. To have avoided that challenge or to have cowered before it would have been to lose all pride and dignity, to have suffered a bottomless humiliation.

We Filipinos are not a people accustomed to crooking the knee to any power that may purpose to invade our country and to hold us in thrall. We have been overcome by superior forces, but we have never been outfought; our country has been conquered, but we have never been vanquished. Every power that has ever dared to overrun our country has known the avenging anger of Filipino arms.

I think of this as I lie on my bed today and recall every incident of our epic resistance from Vigan through Lingayen to Bataan. It showed that the defiant blood of Lapu-Lapu still courses in our veins, pulsating not one whit less proudly in the heart of such as Captain Jesus Villamor than in the hearts of Dagohoy, Diego Silang, Antonio Luna and Gregorio del Pilar.

Last year, on this same date, I addressed the people of the United States to tell them that after Bataan and Corregidor, our friendship is sealed in the blood of heroes, which makes it sacred and forever lasting. I want to tell my people today that during this one year that I have been in America, this country has been giving the Filipinos tangible evidences not only of friendship but of its gratitude for our uncompromising stand in the defense of liberty and freedom.

Not only has President Roosevelt recognized the Philippines as possessed of the attributes of full nationhood, as a result of which the Philippines is now a member of the United Nations, a virtual recognition of the Commonwealth as an independent nation, but the Philippines has been given a seat in the Pacific War Council, and President Roosevelt and I have agreed to set up a joint commission to study problems of Philippine economic reconstruction, financial rehabilitation and future security.

Crowning my efforts and negotiations in your behalf since undertaking the conduct of the affairs of our Commonwealth Government from the City of Washington more than a year ago, the President of the United States recommended in a message to the Congress of October 6, 1943, specific measures designed to effect the establishment of an independent Philippine Republic at the earliest time that the course of the war will safely permit, and to provide for our people full post-war rehabilitation, and future economic and national security.

President Roosevelt asked Congress that he be given the authority after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, to advance the date provided in the existing law and to proclaim the legal independence of the Philippines as a separate and self-governing nation as soon as feasible.

The President's message goes beyond the commitments made in the Tydings-McDuffie Act, for it recommends not only the establishment of an independent Philippine Republic, but it gives the assurance that the political and territorial integrity of the

Republic will be defended by the power of the United States in concert and cooperation with the Philippines.

The message recommends even more than that. It recommends legislation covering the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines after independence that will assist the Philippines as an independent nation to become economically secure. It urges that the Congress appropriate funds for the economic rehabilitation of the Philippines, and for the reconstruction of all government properties and public works and improvements that have been destroyed since the Japanese invasion. Damages caused to, and losses suffered by government as well as private corporations and private individuals will be covered. And more important still, the poor people who have lost their small properties, such as their little houses, carabaos, bogs, etc., will be fully indemnified.

As the President stated in his message, all of this is due to the Filipino people 'in recognition of their heroic role in this war, the political ties which have bound us together, and the bonds of friendship which will join us together in the future.'

I know that Japan has granted a so-called independence to the Philippines. How unreal and meaningless that independence is, you and I know. The real purpose of this pseudo-independence is contained in the text of the military pact ratified by the National Assembly October 18, according to a Manila-dated Domei report broadcast by Tokyo, which says that "the high contracting parties shall closely cooperate on matters political, economic and military for the successful prosecution of the war of Greater East Asia."

The terms of the alliance, as announced by Tokyo, clearly show the real purpose behind the granting by Japan of a so-called independence, namely, to use the Philippines "politically, economically and militarily for the successful prosecution of the war of Greater East Asia."

I want to give you my assurance that the Government of the Philippines will provide amply for those who fought in this war, for their orphans and their dependents.

"I also want to assure you that the time of your redemption is fast approaching. America is gathering her strength in the Pacific, and soon General MacArthur will be able to start the reconquest of our homeland. Indeed, he has already won important battles in the Southwest Pacific, in which he has decisively defeated the Japanese and driven them out of Gona, Buna, Munda, Villa, Salamaua, Finschafen, in New Guinea, and Kolombangara, in the central Solomons, all preparatory for that conquest.

I realize how sometimes you must have felt that you were being abandoned. But once again I want to assure you that the Government and people of the United States have never forgotten their obligations to you. General MacArthur has been constantly asking for more planes, supplies and materials in order that he can carry out his one dream, which is to oust the Japanese from our shores. That not more has been done so far is due to the fact that it was simply a matter of inability to do more up to the present time. The situation has now changed. I have it on good authority that General MacArthur will soon have the men and material he needs for the reconquest of our homeland.

I have felt your sufferings so deeply and have constantly shared them with you that I have been a sick man since I arrived in Washington, and for the last five months I have been actually unable to leave my bed. But sick as I was, I have not for a moment failed to do my duty. As a matter of fact the conference which resulted in the message of President Roosevelt was held practically in my bedroom.

Nobody knows and feels as intensely as I do your sufferings and your sacrifices, how fiercely the flame of hate and anger against the invader burns in your hearts, how bravely you have accepted the bitter fact of Japanese occupation. I know your hearts are full of sorrow, but I also know your faith is whole.

I ask you to keep that faith unimpaired. Freedom is worth all our trials, tears and bloodshed. We are suffering today for our future generations that they may be spared the anguish and the agony of a repetition of what we are now undergoing. We are also building for them from the ruins of today and thus guarantee their economic security. For the freedom, peace, and well-being of our generations yet unborn, we are now paying the price.

To our armed forces, who are fighting in the hills, mountains and jungles of the Philippines, my tribute of admiration for your courage and heroism. You are writing with your sacrifices another chapter in the history of the Philippines that, like the epic of Bataan, will live forever in the hearts of lovers of freedom everywhere.

My fellow countrymen, I am proud of you. I know that you have been wielding against the enemy two potent weapons: Filipino unity and faith. Stronger than any arm of destruction, your weapons are of untold and terrible power. Stronger than a thousand sheets of steel, with them you are invincible. Carry on, and today, I repeat to you with conviction what General MacArthur said when he arrived in Australia from Bataan: "I broke through and I will return.

People of the Philippines, I will return with General MacArthur. Our day of redemption is at hand."

Radiogram Message of President Quezon to Dr. Arturo Rotor, February 1, 1944

**Radiogram Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Dr. Arturo Rotor**

[Released on February 1, 1944]

Feb. 1, 1944

WUN33 76

TDMZ MIAMI BEACH FLO FEB 1 1944 700P

DR ARTURO ROTOR, PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH

1617 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NORTHWEST WASHDC

Following is telegram Mr Eugene Meyer Editor and Publisher Washington Post Washington DC I wish the Washington Post and the treasury department all success in their avenge Bataan Bond Drive. We must not only avenge the dead we must also rescue the living who are still prisoners of war of the Japanese these gallant heroes of Bataan and Corregidor appeal to us for help let those who would answer their appeal write their names on this scroll.

MANUEL L QUEZON.

745PM

Source: **Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Radiogram Message to Dr. Arturo Rotor from President Manuel L. Quezon]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University.

**Shortwave Radio Message of President Quezon to the Filipino People Shortwave Radio Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Filipino People**

[Delivered on February 20, 1943]

My Beloved Countrymen:

One year ago today I begun my long odyssey which started from Corregidor and ended in this great capital of the United States. It is now my duty to report to you on what we have accomplished during this year.

I do not have to tell you that from the first day of the invasion of our country by Japan, the Japanese have directed their propaganda at convincing you that Japan is our friend and liberator. Your answer, our answer, has been to fight them to the bitter end. The (lower of our youth died side by side with their American comrades in defense of our country, our liberties, and the American and Philippine flags.

The surrender of Bataan and Corregidor did not end that epic struggle. Even the broadcasts from Tokio that now and then tell of the stern and cruel measures taken by the Japanese Army in the Philippines against Filipinos, reveal that our people have not accepted defeat, and as best they can, they are still fighting the invaders at whatever cost.

But Japan is bent upon winning your good will by every possible device—if she can. Knowing that independence is the cause for which our forefathers fought and died; knowing, too, that we have stood by America because she has made good her pledge to make our people free and independent, Japanese propaganda has been insistently telling you that you must not have faith in America, and that the independence of our country will only come from Japan,

In line with this policy of deceit, Premier Tojo, at the last session of the Imperial Diet, has again reiterated his statement made last year that Japan is ready to grant independence to the Philippines. Assuming that tomorrow Japan was to declare the Philippines an independent nation, what would that mean? It would merely mean that the Philippines would be another “Manchukuo”—a government without rights, without powers, without authority. A government charged only with the duty to obey the dictates of the Japanese rulers. After the tragic end of Korea’s independence, in utter disregard of a solemn pledge to respect it, it would be worse than folly to rely on any promise made by the Japanese government.

Vis-a-vis Manchukuo and Korea, let us go over our association with the United States:

Coincident with the organization of Civil Government in the Philippines in the early years of the American regime, the Filipino people enjoyed, for the first time in their history, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of worship, and all the other freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Neither the President nor the Congress of the United States could deprive the Filipinos of these rights, for they were under the protection of the Constitution of the United States itself.

With the help of the United States, we made steady progress in every field of human endeavor and rapid advance in the practice of self-government. At last America gave us complete autonomy on matters affecting our domestic affairs, preparatory to the establishment of the Philippine Republic which was set for the fourth of July 1946. We were a happy and prosperous people when Japan, without the slightest provocation on our part, brought sufferings, death and havoc, and destroyed every vestige of freedom in our country.

But our sacrifices have not been in vain. By our decision to fight by the side of the United States, by our heroism, and by our loyalty to the American flag, we won a battle greater than we lost. Our decision and our heroism have won for our people real freedom for all time.

You know what President Roosevelt said in his proclamation to the Filipino people on December 28, 1941. These were his words: "I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and materials of the United States stand behind that pledge."

Not only that. President Roosevelt has, in effect, already given the Philippines recognition as an independent nation.

On my arrival in Washington, he rendered me honors due only to the heads of independent governments. He met me at the railroad station with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Interior, members of the Supreme Court and other high officials. Mrs. Quezon and I were his official guests at the White House.

He has recognized our right to take part in the Pacific War Council, with Great Britain, China, The Netherlands and the self-governing Dominions of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The President of the United States himself presides over the Council table.

In the name of the Philippines, I am a signatory to the Atlantic Charter. We are one of the United Nations. And whether the war is over before or after July 4, 1946, the date fixed for the establishment of the Philippine Republic, I am certain that we shall have our own representation in the Peace Conference.

Japan now promises you independence. That promise means less than nothing. Our independence is already a reality, since the President of the United States, by his several official acts enumerated above, has given recognition to the Philippines as possessed of the attributes of full nationhood. The only thing lacking is the formal establishment of the Philippine Republic. This cannot happen until our country is liberated from the invader,—until you, my fellow citizens, can exercise your full right to elect the officials of the Government of the Republic.

"On January 6, 1941, President Roosevelt said:

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

"The first is freedom of speech and expression— everywhere in the world.

"The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

"The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understanding which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

"The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means worldwide reduction of armaments to such a point as in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor anywhere in the world."

Those are the Four Freedoms for which we fight. They will come after the victory of the United Nations. When that glorious day arrives, the Filipino people will enjoy the blessings of these four freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear. The first two need no elaboration. You have known and exercised them before this war began. But, in the past, the other two have only been the hope and the ambition of our people.

Now we can look forward to these human rights with the assurance of their realization after the war. We shall secure for every Filipino the satisfaction of the basic human needs which are the rights of all men—food, clothing, and shelter, and economic opportunity. With the help of the United States, we shall rebuild our ravaged land, and make of it a prosperous member of the family of free nations.

President Roosevelt and I have already agreed that studies be made now for the economic rehabilitation of the Philippines, so that we shall be ready to proceed with the gigantic task of rebuilding our country as soon as the enemy is expelled.

As for the fourth freedom—the freedom from fear of aggression—we have before us, not only the commitment in principle of the United Nations, but also the pledge of the Government of the United States, as given by President Roosevelt in his proclamation to the Filipino people. In furtherance of this pledge, President Roosevelt has authorized the State Department to discuss with me the question of our future security and of the safeguarding forever of the mutual interests of the United States and the Philippines in the Pacific area.

I give you my solemn assurance that the Philippines is not being neglected. The President, the Congress, the American people, are doing and will do everything in their power to redeem you as soon as possible from the heel of the invader.

I have been authorized by the President of the United States to tell you that the text of this broadcast has been submitted to him, and that “he is very glad to authorize me to make the statements concerning United States policy which are contained in this broadcast.”

My beloved countrymen, you know that day and night I can only think of you, of the day of your redemption and my return to our beautiful Islands. I would not be here, I would not have left you for a moment, I would have been sharing with you your sufferings and your hardships if I did not feel that I could only be of service to you by my being: free from the clutches of the enemy.

Do not despair for your liberation is certain. It may take time, but it will come. Meanwhile, don't let the Japanese fool you. Use your wits and beat him at his own game. Above all, you must continue to have faith in America who has kept faith with every nation, and especially with us. Our bonds of friendship tempered in the heat of battle, will last beyond the war and into the peace of freedom, general well-being and safety that will follow it.

God bless you and keep you all.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). Shortwave Radio Message of President Quezon to the Filipino People. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 13-15.

Message of President Quezon on the Second Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, March 30, 1944

TO : : CINC SWPA (FOR MACARTHUR)

FROM : : WASHINGTON (BISSELL – WDGBI)

NR : : W 16460 30TH MARCH 1944

Will you be so kind as to send following to Philippines at proper time:

“My beloved countrymen on this Easter Sunday, the Second Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, I want to send you this message. I feel that today on this day commemorating the resurrection of our Lord the triumph of life over death I must tell you that our country’s resurrection is inevitable. Two years ago today Bataan fell. For two long years you have been under the cruel heel of the invader. I know that sometimes you must feel that you have been abandoned but I want to give you my solemn word that the Government and People of the United States have never forgotten their obligations to you. The whole world knows of your magnificent courage in the Battle of Bataan and the whole world knows of your heroism and loyalty and devotion to the cause of freedom during these two dark years. Everywhere in the Pacific the United Nations are on the offensive. The victories of General MacArthur in the Solomon Islands, New Britain, New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands and those of Admiral Nimitz in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands and the attack on Truk show clearly that the defeat of Japan is certain and that the day of liberation is fast approaching. I know that although your hearts are full of sorrow your faith is whole. I ask you to keep that faith unimpaired. You know that my greatest concern is the liberation of the Philippines and when I ask you to have faith as I have faith in those who are responsible for winning this war you know I am confident of our country’s redemption. My countrymen I live for the day when I shall return with General MacArthur; when I shall see your beloved faces again. That day is coming as surely as day follows night. I know that our country will live again and live as we are all fighting for it to live in prosperity and freedom, not only for ourselves, but for the generations to follow us. Keep the banners of your faith flying victory is now in sight.”

QUEZON

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Message of President Manuel L. Quezon on the Second Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Manuel L. Quezon, First State of the Nation Address, November 25, 1935

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on National Defense**

[Delivered in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building on November 25, 1935]

Mr. Speaker, gentlemen of the National Assembly:

As I appear before you for the first time, allow me to extend to you my cordial greetings and congratulations upon your election to this august body. It is your unique privilege to serve our country at the most critical period of its existence—at a time when the course of its destiny will be charted.

The framers of our Constitution conferred upon our Government all the power and authority needed to meet the demands of a progressive and enlightened epoch so that it may be able to promote the welfare and happiness of our people and safeguard their liberty.

I know you are well aware of the share of responsibility in the task of government which belongs to you. Unlike the Legislature that preceded you, which had two Houses, this National Assembly is by itself the whole Legislative Department of the government. When you take final action on a measure, there is no other legislative branch that will pass upon and give it further consideration. The measure as you pass it goes directly to the Chief Executive, who is devoid of any power to alter it in any way and has no alternative except that of giving it his express or implied approval, or of vetoing it.

In my opinion, the main responsibility for legislative action is yours. It will be my policy as Chief Executive to give you, in every case, the benefit of doubt. You may, therefore, rest assured that, if ever, I shall exercise my veto power with reluctance, and only when I am strongly convinced that it is my plain and unavoidable duty to do so in the interest of the common weal.

Article VII, section 11, (5) of the Constitution directs the President to present to the National Assembly, from time to time, information on the state of the Nation, and to recommend to its consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.

In the fulfillment of this duty, I am addressing the National Assembly today on the fundamental responsibility of a state—on a question involving our very existence when we become a free member of the family of nations. This question is that of assuring the future safety of our beloved country.

Self-defense is the supreme right of mankind, no more sacred to the individual than to the nation, the interests of which are immeasurably of greater significance and extent. A threat against the nation involves not alone the life of one individual, but of millions; not the welfare and fortune of a single family, but of all. And above everything else, depending upon the exercise of the right of national self-defense is freedom itself, the most precious reward from Heaven to the worthy. This immutable principle is firmly incorporated in our Constitution—the Magna Charta of Philippine Liberty.

We, the citizens of these Islands, are now fairly started upon the final stretch of the long road we have so patiently and persistently followed toward the goal of independence. Up to here the trail has been a tortuous one. But the difficulties we have encountered and the frustrations we have endured have not deterred us from our purpose. They have served only to spur us onward—to increase the intensity of our undying devotion to the cause for which no cost could be too great, no sacrifice too bitter. And now at last, with success so plainly in our sight, our love of liberty and the voice of reason alike urge us to guard and cherish the prize that has been so hardly won.

I would be recreant to my duty did I not come to you, in my first appearance before the National Assembly, to ask your ungrudging support for the establishment of a sound system of National Defense. This is our first and most urgent need.

As we commit ourselves to this important task we realize that a war-weary world groans under a burden of armaments. Every accretion to the accumulated total is invariably subjected to careful and even suspicious scrutiny. But the world must be well aware that in the present state of our development, the establishment within these Islands of an aggressive force capable of threatening the security of any other nation would be fantastic. Consequently, without fear that any act of ours may be misunderstood or resented by others, we are free to undertake every preparatory measure of defense that the circumstances of our situation may require.

Nevertheless, it is well that we now announce, through clear delineation of our objective, definite limits upon the efforts we shall make in this direction. That objective is a single one—peace—permanent peace! This objective is proclaimed in our own Constitution and no Filipino dares to challenge it. No purpose of our own, no conceivable temptation or manipulation from abroad, can ever lead us into war save in defense of our own rights, waged within the limits of our own territory. Our full desire is to insure domestic tranquillity and to guarantee to our citizens the opportunity to pursue, without external molestation, prosperity and happiness under a stable government, devised, developed, and maintained by the people themselves.

In furtherance of this purpose I shall submit to you a comprehensive plan for national defense. In my opinion the plan reflects the lessons of history, the conclusions of acknowledged masters of warfare and of statesmanship, and the sentiments and aspirations of the Filipino people. It is founded upon enduring principles that are fundamental to any plan applicable to our needs.

The first of these principles is that every citizen is obligated to the nation's defense. All the individual and national resources may be used by the State in the interest of self-preservation. No man has the inalienable right to enjoy the privileges and opportunities conferred upon him by free institutions unless he simultaneously acknowledges his duty to defend with his life and with his property the Government through which he acquires these opportunities and these privileges. To deny this individual responsibility is to reject the whole theory of democratic government.

This principle knows no limitation of time or condition. It is effective in war, in peace, and for as long as the nation shall endure. Impelled by cogent reasons I propose its specific application to our peace-time task of preparation, by requiring every citizen of suitable age and physique to undergo military training as an obligation to the State.

The ultimate bulwark of liberty is the readiness of free citizens to sacrifice themselves in defense of that boon. Where this spirit has been inculcated through generations and has become firmly embedded in the public consciousness, nations have been strong, virile, prosperous, and stable. Where citizens have grown neglectful of this individual obligation, especially where they have sought to deny its validity, the result has been decadence, weakness, poverty, and destruction.

To foster national pride and patriotism nothing is more effective than to participate actively in the processes of maintaining the national defense. Military training and service build up the spirit of duty and love of country. They nurture patriotism, loyalty, courage, and discipline. A nation of trained men ready to defend their country has the lasting respect of itself and of the world. A nation of helpless citizens can expect nothing but slavery at home, and contempt abroad. If we are wise, if we are mindful of the lessons history teaches, we will provide a military education for our entire manhood, beginning from early adolescence. To accomplish this purpose a utilization of the public-school system immediately suggests itself. By inculcating in rising generations the soldierly virtues, by preparing our people spiritually and physically to serve the state, our schools will be building upon solid foundations not only national consciousness and solidarity but also boldness of spirit which are indispensable to the free and uninterrupted development of this nation.

The second basic principle is that our national defense system must provide actual security. Indeed, an insufficient defense is almost a contradiction in terms. A dam that crumbles under the rising flood is nothing more than a desolate monument to the wasted effort and lack of vision of its builders. In this one function of government there

can be no compromise with minimum requirements. Our program of national defense must serve notice upon the world that the citizens of these Islands are not to be subjugated; that conquest of this nation cannot be accomplished short of its utter destruction, and that that destruction would involve such staggering cost to an aggressor, both in blood and gold, that even the boldest and the strongest will unerringly mark the folly of such an undertaking.

The next principle to which I hold is the insistent need for current and future economy. Although there are no costs of peace comparable to those that would surely follow defeat in war, it is nevertheless incumbent upon the Government to avoid every unnecessary expenditure. During the three centuries of Philippine history as a dependency, there have been largely lifted from our shoulders the burdens incident to sovereignty, particularly those of providing for our own protection. These burdens our people now gladly accept. They stand ready to pay the cost, whatever it may be, of assuring the permanent security and integrity of the homeland. But for us in the Government, to permit this cost to exceed the minimum demanded by the purpose that we seek would be an inexcusable blunder and a betrayal of the trust reposed in us.

The need for minimizing expense not only requires the utmost efficiency in details, but also it clearly indicates the basic character of the defensive establishment we must devise. Specifically, it precludes, for the present at least, the development of a battle fleet. Naval strength is expressed principally in terms of fighting ships, each of which, even in the small and auxiliary categories, can be produced only at tremendous cost. It is manifestly impossible, in the current state of our economic development, to acquire a fleet that could offer even partially effective resistance to any existing navy worthy of the name.

One desirable effect of a decision to forego the construction of a battle fleet will be to emphasize the passively defensive character of our military establishment. Tactically, a fleet cannot operate as a purely defensive force and is useless unless it can proceed to see and engage its enemy beyond the limits of its own bases. Moreover, the existence of a powerful navy inherently implies a possibility of aggressive intent, since only with strong naval support could an army hope to invade the territory of an overseas enemy. Consequently, as an island nation, our lack of sea power will confirm before the world our earnest intent to develop an army solely for defensive purposes.

Another fundamental premise is the necessity for a gradual rather than sudden growth of the required defense establishment. Both economy and efficiency demand no immediate and complete organization of a force of the necessary eventual strength. A modern army is a complex organism, and its defensive power is not measured solely by the number of its soldiers. Suitable armament, proper organization, professional technique and skill, applicable tactical doctrine and, above all, trained leadership are the very soul of an army's combat efficiency. However lavish may be the expenditure, these things cannot be instantly acquired. They are brought about only through thoughtful, painstaking, and persistent effort, intelligently directed. Progress in these fields will determine the rate at which the whole development, including increases in personnel strength, may logically and efficiently proceed.

Nevertheless, it is imperative that our plans reach fruition by the time the beneficent protection of the United States shall have been finally withdrawn. We have ten years, and only ten, in which to initiate and complete the development of our defensive structure, the creation of which, because of the conditions of our past existence, must now begin at the very foundations. Not a moment is to be lost. Starting immediately, we must build economically and gradually, but steadily and surely, so as to attain within the time permitted us the highest possible efficiency at the lowest possible cost.

Finally, I must emphasize the need for logical governmental procedure in this development—a procedure calculated to minimize error and to avoid loss of time, waste of resources, and unnecessary exposure of the country to the risks of unpreparedness. Since our security arrangements must be carefully moulded to fit the special and particular needs of our country, there exists nowhere in the world a model upon which our own defenses may be blindly patterned. Step by step we must design a new organism, and in doing so we must advance progressively from the general to the specific; from the explored to the unexplored. A continuous adjustment of essential details to constantly evolving requirements will be mandatory. Such a procedure will be possible only through the exercise of administrative authority, taking advantage of the highest professional and technical advice. But since under our form of government, administrative authority is limited to the task of execution, it is highly important that initial legislation for the erection of the nation's defenses should confer upon the President as Commander-in-Chief, a very considerable latitude in carrying out the expressed purposes of the National Assembly. Any attempt, at the outset of

this undertaking, to formulate a plan that would prescribe in concrete and inflexible language every detail of the complete development could not fail to result in added cost and slow progress.

The essential elements of our defensive system will in time become more clearly crystallized and definitely moulded to the needs of the nation. Then, it will be time for the National Assembly to enact legislation with such details as it may deem desirable.

But though details of design in the superstructure of defense should, at least for the present, be charged to the Chief Executive, the Assembly must retain the responsibility of assuring the soundness of its foundations. It is not only the prerogative but also the duty of the Legislative Department to evolve and to prescribe the broad policies that are to control progress in this critically important task. Likewise it is a function of the Legislative Body to bestow specific authorization and to provide the funds essential to the purpose it seeks. Supported by such authority and guided by these policies, the Chief Executive will be enabled to proceed confidently and expeditiously toward the accomplishment of the legislative intent.

The central feature of the defensive system I propose is a trained and organized force, normally engaged in the pursuits of peace, and ready for effective employment whenever the interests of the nation so demand. Service in this force is to be rendered as a patriotic obligation to the state. Upon reaching maturity, each able-bodied male citizen will automatically become liable for a period of intensive military training. From the number annually attaining this age, a training quota of the required size will be selected by lot. Moreover, so far as the capacity of the Army will permit, volunteers from among those not so selected, or from older age groups, will be incorporated into the training cadres. Upon completion of his training period, each citizen will return to civil life, but as a member of an Army reserve unit. Thus the burden of defense will be widely distributed, and each citizen will devote to exclusive military activity only an insignificant portion of his time.

The regular element of the Army, composed of volunteers from every geographical area of the Islands, will eventually attain a maximum strength of 1,500 officers and 19,000 enlisted men, including the existing Constabulary. Its officers and men will pursue the military profession as a life's career and devote themselves exclusively to the nation's defense. The Regular Army must become a model of efficiency—the energizing element and, professionally, the directing head of the whole establishment. Its missions will comprehend the maintenance of permanent overhead for the entire force, including such essential services as procurement, storage, transportation, communication, and sanitation; the prosecution of research and experimentation to keep the Army abreast of latest developments in every branch of the military profession; and instruction of the reserve.

In organizational and operational outline the proposed system is the essence of simplicity. Under its provisions the Chief of Staff of the Army is selected by and is directly responsible to the President, and will have the rank of a Secretary of Department. Under him will be a Department of National Defense comprising the several staff sections required for general supervision of the whole military establishment and for the control of administration, training, maintenance, and other essential functions.

The reserve units will be dispersed through all the Islands, approximately according to population. The national territory will be divided into military districts and subdistricts, in each of which will be maintained a small professional cadre for the training of the annual quota locally called to the colors. Training periods except for trainees selected to serve with the Regular Force will normally extend over a period of five and a half months. Thereafter, for ten years, each trainee will be required to undergo annually sufficient training to preserve individual and collective efficiency. From that time onward his training will grow progressively less.

Under this system we will have, within ten years, hundreds of thousands of trained individuals, and eventually practically the entire male population will have had military training. The younger men of this group will be constantly organized into tactical formations. Supporting these units will be a pool of trained individuals, generally in higher age groups, but available in emergency for replacements in line organizations or for employment in staff services. Equipment and supplies for reserve organizations will be locally stored and maintained, under the control of professionally trained cadres.

Supplementing the training given in the Army will be the military instructional system in schools and colleges. Every educational institution wholly or partially supported at public expense is to serve, under the plan, as an agency for inculcating patriotism and for assisting in the important work of instructing our people in the essentials of the military profession. Starting with students, aged ten, intensive courses in citizenship, sanitation, and physical development will be progressively widened in scope during the period of adolescence, until at the age of eighteen, every able-bodied male student will have pursued a thorough course in elementary military practices and methods. As a consequence, even though quotas annually trained in the Army will comprise only a portion of the young men attaining the age of twenty-one, we will eventually acquaint our entire male population with the essential requirements of military service.

The plan provides a comprehensive system for the emergency mobilization of the reserves so as to insure rapid, concerted, and efficient action in the face of emergency. It proposes yearly objectives in the procurement of armaments and equipment. All these things and many others, I have developed in as exhaustive detail as is now possible, to the end that my proposals to the National Assembly might comprise concrete rather than theoretical recommendations.

Although, in broad outline, the proposed system of defense may be thus briefly and accurately described, the governmental problems involved in transforming plans into actual accomplishment will be almost baffling in their intricacy and difficulty. Preliminary to undertaking actual development, necessary laws must be formulated and approved, and initial selections of higher military officials accomplished. Thereafter, and in full accord with the provisions of these legislative enactments, the professional and technical phases of the task will begin. Merely to name the more important of them is to indicate clearly the involved character of the project.

Organization of the Department of National Defense must aim at efficient functioning, but must avoid extravagance entailed by the maintenance of unnecessary overhead. Its membership must possess the qualifications required by the purpose of each essential bureau, including those, for example, pertaining to armament, administration, supply, sanitation, and legal affairs.

An efficient officer corps is the very soul of an army. To produce one of the requisite size and qualifications we must first provide for its gradual accumulation, so that future turn-over will involve only a small annual increment. We must evolve policies governing appointments, promotion, pay, assignment, and retirements, and must provide for the thorough military education of its members. Technical schools must be established, and for these the faculties must first be organized and thoroughly indoctrinated.

Suitable tactical organization of the Army, accurately adjusted to the necessities of Philippine conditions, must be developed. Applicable doctrine and method must be evolved. A skeletonized organization for registration of citizens subject to military training, and for receiving, caring for and training annual quotas must be established. Necessary programs pertaining to munitions, including such technical items as airplanes, rifles, cannon, machine guns, ammunition, signal equipment, bridging material, and a host of other matters must be formulated in accordance with our minimum needs. Inspection, accounting, and other phases of administration must be established and maintained. All these constitute immediate problems for which solutions must develop side by side, each fully articulated and synchronized with all others.

This necessary control, direction, and coordination of a myriad of essential details represents one of the most difficult and critical problems of the entire project. In its importance to progress, it will, for some years to come, overshadow all others. For its successful solution there is immediately demanded, not only a technical ability that extends to every phase of the military profession, but also a broad and thorough experience in the field of higher administration, organization, and leadership. Unless these qualifications can be made constantly available to the Commonwealth we will pay for their lack in millions of squandered pesos, years of wasted time, and in confusion of effort and added risks to our nation's security.

Unfortunately it is this type of ability and experience that, as yet, there has been little opportunity to develop among our own people. We have produced, both in the Constabulary and in the Philippine Scouts, officers of outstanding worth in particular lines of military endeavor, from among whom we confidently expect to obtain initially the senior

officers of the new Army. But due to the conditions of our past existence we have had no War Department, no complete defense force, no balanced army, no exclusive responsibility for protection, and, consequently, no experience in the functions that now assume for us a transcendent importance.

In this situation we have no alternative but to obtain this experience, this ability, and this skill from other sources, and in my anxiety on this score I earnestly considered all upon which we might logically depend.

Every consideration of friendship and association supported the hope that this source might be the United States. Consequently, I presented to the President of that country the essentials of this problem and explained our dire need for help. More specifically I earnestly requested the detail of General Douglas MacArthur, then Chief of Staff of the United States Army, as the one soldier whose opinion on every question of military organization would command the respect of all our people. The President's response was immediate, sympathetic, and definite.

At a very real sacrifice to the American Army this officer, who since 1930 had served continuously as its Chief of Staff, has been made available to the Commonwealth Government as Military Adviser. His record in peace and war requires no eulogy from me. His qualifications for the important post in which he will serve are as clearly appreciated among our own people as they are in Washington. Because of this, and because also of his own known devotion to the Philippines and to the Filipino people, the wisdom of his choice will be universally recognized. I request authority to confer upon General MacArthur and his assistants the rank and emoluments that I deem in keeping with their important duties and the dignity of this nation.

The several provisions of law fundamental to the development of Philippine defense are outlined in a draft of a bill which I shall presently furnish you. It depicts, in much greater detail than I have attempted here, the defense plan I propose for adoption. It represents the essence of the authorizations, directives, and general policies necessary to insure initiation of the project.

Again, I emphasize the need for prompt and positive action in initiating this great project. In every other line of human endeavor we have built, not only the foundations, but also the framework and, in certain cases, even the edifice itself. But here, except for necessary law enforcement elements, not a stone has been laid.

The refusal to grant us immediate and complete independence has been due, in large measure, to our present inability to cope with a general revolt or to offer any kind of resistance to an invading force. Your swift action on the defense measures I am proposing will prove the earnestness of our determination to be, and forever to remain, free and independent. What, I ask, would be the use of seeing our country free one day, with its own flag standing alone and flying against the sky, only to see ourselves the subjects of another power the following day, with its flag the sovereign in and of our country? What would be the purpose of educating our young men and women concerning their rights and privileges as free citizens, if tomorrow they are to be subjects of a foreign foe? Why build up the wealth of the Nation only to swell up the coffers of another? If that be our preordained fate, why seek a new master when the Stars and Stripes has given us not only justice and fair treatment, welfare and prosperity, but also ever increasing political liberties including independence?

National freedom now stands before us as a shining light—the freedom that for many years gleamed only fitful candle in the distant dark. We shall make ourselves ready to grasp the torch, so that no predatory force may ever strike it from our hands!

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Railroad Bonds Redemption

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Railroad Bonds Redemption**

[Released on December 9, 1935]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration in this special session two bills recommended by the Secretary of Finance entitled as follows:

An Act to provide funds for the purchase or redemption before maturity of certain outstanding- Manila Railroad Company First Mortgage Southern Lines Four Per Cent Gold Bonds due May first nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, and for other purposes.

An Act authorizing the Philippine National Bank to write up the value of certain assets which have been eliminated or reduced in pursuance of Act Numbered Thirty-one hundred and seventy-four, to pay to the Government an equivalent amount thereof, and for other purposes.

The first bill provides funds to be loaned to the Manila Railroad Company to enable it to redeem a portion of its Southern Lines Four Per Cent Bonds now held by the Manila Railroad Company (1906), Ltd. The bill is accompanied by an explanatory note clearly showing the advantages to be gained by the redemption of said bonds before maturity, together with detailed estimates of the actual savings that will result from the purchase of this block of bonds.

The Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd., of London, England, owns P16,340,000 par value of the Southern Lines Four Per Cent Bonds of the Manila Railroad Company maturing on May 1, 1939. The London Company now offers to sell these bonds at 80 per cent of par value. In addition to these securities, it also owns P26,472,000 par value (the entire issue) of the Manila Railroad Company's Refunding Mortgage Five Per Cent Gold Bonds due July 1, 1936. The Philippine Government is the sole owner of the stock of the Manila Railroad Company. Hence, while the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. is directly the creditor of the Manila Railroad Company, it is indirectly the creditor of the Philippine Government to the extent of P42,812,000.

Undoubtedly the fact that the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. holds such a large investment in the Manila Railroad Company in proportion to the total assets of this concern has influenced its decision to seek the redemption at the present time of its Southern Lines Four Per Cent Bonds maturing in 1939 at a discount of 20 per cent of their par value payable in present United States dollars subject to certain conditions, notwithstanding the fact that by waiting until maturity it could demand payment of the par value of the bonds in European currencies at the former Gold equivalent as stipulated in said bonds. Moreover, the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. is desirous of liquidating these bonds in order to obtain funds for the redemption of some of its own debenture secured by these Southern Lines Four Per Cent Bonds, and thereby reduce its own indebtedness and improve its financial condition immediately. Another reason which prompted the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. to make this offer is to render more secure its investment in the Five Per Cent Refunding Bonds of the Manila Railroad Company maturing on July 1, 1936.

I desire to bring to your attention the fact that the capital stock of the Manila Railroad Company amounts only to P25,127,000 whereas its total bonded indebtedness is more than twice this amount, or P52,782,000. This indicates the heavy burden of interest payments which the Manila Railroad Company must meet annually. For the year 1934, interest on its bonds, plus premium (of over P800,000) resulting from the collection of the interest on the Southern

Lines Four Per Cent Bonds in European currencies at the former gold equivalent, amounted to the sum of approximately P3,066,000 or P255,500 each month. During the same year, the total operating expenses of the Company amounted to P6,161,511.33, so that the bond interest is almost exactly one-half as much as the total operating expenses. Obviously, any step taken to reduce this heavy burden of interest charges by the reduction of the amount of bonds outstanding will aid the Manila Railroad Company in its efforts to place its operation on a sounder business basis.

The Manila Railroad Company has not set aside a sinking fund for the redemption of these bonds. However, as funds were available for the payment of this indebtedness, the Company proceeded to repurchase directly its bonds in the open market. In this manner the Manila Railroad Company has been able to acquire P4,496,000 of this issue.

Under the circumstances, it is evident that the Manila Railroad Company cannot be expected to redeem the outstanding Southern Lines Four Per Cent Gold Bonds amounting to P21,170,000 on their maturity. While the Philippine Government is not directly obligated to pay the principal of these bonds, yet its interest in the Company as the sole owner of its stocks as well as its desire to maintain the service for the public convenience imposes upon it the duty of facilitating the fulfillment by the Manila Railroad Company of this obligation.

The proposed legislation will enable the Manila Railroad Company to redeem the Southern Lines Four Per Cent Bonds now held by the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. with funds to be loaned by the Government to the Manila Railroad Company. The loan which I propose to be granted by the Government requires the Manila Railroad Company to set up a sinking fund for this loan at a rate of not less than 2 per cent annually, in addition to the payment of the corresponding interest.

The redemption of these Southern Lines Four Per Cent Bonds under the terms contained in the offer of the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. will result in a saving by the Manila Railroad Company of about P3,000,000 in principal alone, representing the 20 per cent discount, and another P3,000,000 in interest, or a total of P6,000,000. When it is considered that both the principal and interest are, at the holders' option, subject to payment in certain European currencies at the former gold equivalent, the amount necessary to redeem the bonds held by the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. would at the present rate of exchange represent a total sum of approximately P27,287,000. The purchase of the bonds at this time for the sum of P13,072,000 would, therefore, mean a saving in principal of over P14,000,000, and in interest of approximately P3,000,000, or a total saving to the Company of about P17,000,000.

The first bill appropriates the sum of P13,350,000 to be loaned to the Manila Railroad Company in accordance with the above plan. In order to provide funds for this appropriation, it is proposed in the second bill to authorize the Philippine National Bank to pay to the Philippine Government the sum of P7,500,000 representing part of its obligations to the Government under the Philippine National Bank Rehabilitation Act. The remainder of the funds needed will be taken from the sum of P6,050,000, which, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, I shall order to be transferred to the General Funds from the excess reserves in the Exchange Standard Fund. This transfer will not in any manner impair the stability of the Philippine currency because there will still remain an excess of P11,400,668.50 over and above the maximum legal requirement for the reserves in the Exchange Standard Fund.

In view of the fact that the offer made by the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd. has to be acted upon not later than January 31, 1936, and payment made before that date, I earnestly urge that early favorable action be taken on the measures herein-above proposed.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on National Assembly Sessions, December 12, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 12, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to call the attention of that august body to the provisions of Article VI, section 3, paragraph 3 of the Constitution having reference to the holding of the regular sessions of the National Assembly, under which it is incumbent upon that body to fix the time for the holding of the regular sessions every year. In view of the fact that such regular sessions could not be held this year in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution due to the impossibility of convening the National Assembly during the month as provided in this constitutional precept, it is highly advisable that the National Assembly itself fix at this time the date for the regular sessions during the coming year. In this way the Executive may be able to formulate plans and prepare the Budget as required by the Constitution in time for presentation during the regular sessions. I, therefore, urge the consideration and approval by that august body of legislation fixing the date, for the regular sessions of the National Assembly during the rest of the term of office of its present members, as well as for the future.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of Quezon to the First National Assembly on Court of Appeals, December 12, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON COURT OF APPEALS

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 12, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration and early approval, a bill entitled—

An Act to amend certain provisions of the Revised Administrative Code on the Judiciary, by reducing: the number of Justices of the Supreme Court and defining its jurisdiction and creating the Court of Appeals and defining its jurisdiction, appropriating funds, therefor, and for other purposes.

The necessity of the establishment of a Court of Appeals has long been felt by all elements concerned in the proper administration of justice in these Islands, including the Supreme Court itself. The volume of work that has had to be accomplished by the Supreme Court in order to keep abreast of the appeals from time to time filed in said Court has been such that it has been unable to devote the necessary time for a mature deliberation of important issues of law submitted to it. According to available statistics, during the last five years, each member of the Supreme Court had to dispose of, and write an opinion on, a yearly average of one hundred eighty-eight cases—an average of one case for every one and a half working days,—besides studying and taking part in the disposition of four or five times this number of cases, the writing of the opinion on which is entrusted to the other members of the Court. The number of cases appealed to the Supreme Court has not decreased; and with the new requirement in our Constitution that the conclusions of the Court in any case shall be reached in consultation before it is assigned to a Justice for the writing of an opinion, it would be materially impossible for that Court alone to cope with the situation.

I am informed that although the Convention had failed to reach a decision on the establishment of a Court of Appeals, this was not because the members did not favor the establishment of such a Court, but because it was thought advisable to leave this question to future determination by the National Assembly, thereby avoiding the usual constitutional limitation, in the case where it should be necessary to change, in any manner, the organization or jurisdiction of the court. Section 1 of Article VIII of the Constitution permitting the establishment of inferior courts and section 2 of the same article authorizing the National Assembly to define, prescribe, and apportion the jurisdiction of the various courts, but limiting that power so that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in certain cases may not be taken away, are a clear indication of this intent on the part of the Constitutional Convention.

The movement for the creation of a Court of Appeals started even before the year 1929. In February, 1929, the Eighth Philippine Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 56 creating an Intermediate Court of Appeals. This bill was vetoed by Governor-General Stimson on account of certain objections. A similar bill, corrected so as to meet the objections presented by the Governor-General, was again passed in the following regular session of the Philippine

Legislature, and although the same was approved by the Governor-General, it was not ratified by the Congress of the United States and therefore never took effect.

The attached bill has been prepared by the Department of Justice in consultation with the Chief Justice and other members of the present Supreme Court. Every effort has been made to have the provisions of the bill meet the present situation, without impairing the authority of the Supreme Court as a court of last resort. It is believed that by the passage of this Act the Supreme Court would be so relieved of cases of minor importance that it will be enabled to dispose of the necessary time to give proper consideration to legal questions submitted to it, and to ultimately become a doctrine-laying tribunal—the proper role which it should occupy in our judicial hierarchy.

I am informed that the attached measure involves an actual outlay of only P175,820, over and above the appropriation for the Supreme Court in the Budget for 1935. I am confident that this small outlay of public funds is more than compensated by the advantages that would be derived from the establishment of the Court of Appeals sought in the attached bill.

In view of the foregoing, I cannot but urge the National Assembly to give early and favorable consideration to the attached bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Locust Campaign Fund, December 12, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON LOCUST CAMPAIGN FUND

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 12, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I am submitting for your consideration and approval a bill entitled—

An Act to appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand pesos for the purpose of carrying on the campaign for the extermination or control of locust infestations throughout the Philippines.

I have been informed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce that locust infestation in twenty-six provinces is still serious, but that there is scarcely anything left out of the funds appropriated under Act No. 4127 to carry on the campaign against the pest.

It is urgent that the Government take immediate steps to control this infestation and, if possible, to exterminate this pest, which is so fatal to our agriculture. Sufficient funds should be placed in the hands of the Bureau of Plant Industry with which to carry on the campaign that has heretofore been waged against it. I am informed that the sum of P100,000 sought to be appropriated in this bill would be sufficient to meet the present needs. Therefore, I earnestly urge upon you the immediate consideration and approval of the attached bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Speaker's Salary, December 12, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE SPEAKER'S SALARY

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 12, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the attached communication I have received from the Honorable, the Speaker of the National Assembly, wherein I am requested that the salary of the Speaker of that body be fixed at P12,000 per annum instead of P16,000, as provided in the Constitution. I take special pleasure in commending this attitude of the Speaker and, therefore, urge that body to pass, during the present special session, such legislation as it may consider advisable on this subject.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message to the First National Assembly on Locust Campaign Fund, December 12, 1935

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on Locust Campaign Fund**

[Released on December 12, 1935]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I am submitting for your consideration and approval a bill entitled—

An Act to appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand pesos for the purpose of carrying on the campaign for the extermination or control of locust infestations throughout the Philippines.

I have been informed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce that locust infestation in twenty-six provinces is still serious but that there is scarcely anything left out of the funds appropriated under Act No. 4127 to carry on the campaign against the pest.

It is urgent that the Government take immediate steps to control this infestation and, if possible, to exterminate this pest, which is so fatal to our agriculture. Sufficient funds should be placed in the hands of the Bureau of Plant Industry with which to carry on the campaign that has heretofore been waged against it. I am informed that the sum of P100,000 sought to be appropriated in this bill would be sufficient to meet the present needs. Therefore, I earnestly urge upon you the immediate consideration and approval of the attached bill.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Court of Appeals, December 12, 1935

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on Court of Appeals**

[Released on December 12, 1935]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration and early approval, a bill entitled—

An Act to amend certain Provisions of the Revised Administrative Code of the Judiciary, by reducing the number of Justices of the Supreme Court and defining its jurisdiction and creating the Court of Appeals and defining its jurisdiction, appropriating funds, therefor, and for other purposes.

The necessity of the establishment of a Court of Appeals has long been felt by all elements concerned in the proper administration of justice in these Islands, including the Supreme Court itself. The volume of work that has had to be accomplished by the Supreme Court in order to keep abreast of the appeals from time to time filed in said Court has been such that it has been unable to devote the necessary time for a mature deliberation of important issues of law submitted to it. According to available statistics, during the last five years, each member of the Supreme Court had to dispose of, and write an opinion on, a yearly average of one hundred eighty-eight cases—an average of one case for every one and a half working days,—besides studying and taking part in the disposition of four or five times this number of cases, the writing of the opinion on, which is entrusted to the other members of the Court. The number of cases appealed to the Supreme Court has not decreased; and with the new requirement in our Constitution that the conclusions of the Court in any case shall be reached in consultation before it is assigned to a justice for the writing of an opinion, it would be materially impossible for that court alone to cope with the situation.

I am informed that although the Convention had failed to reach a decision on the establishment of a Court of Appeals, this was not because the members did not favor the establishment of such a court, but because it was thought advisable to leave this question to future determination by the National Assembly, thereby avoiding the usual constitutional limitation, in the case where it should be necessary to change, in any manner, the organization or jurisdiction of the court. Section 1 of Article VIII of the Constitution permitting the establishment of inferior courts and section 2 of the same article authorizing the National Assembly to define, prescribe, and apportion the jurisdiction of the various courts, but limiting; that power so that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in certain cases may not be taken away, are a clear indication of this intent on the part of the Constitutional Convention.

The movement for the creation of a Court of Appeals started even before year 1929. In February, 1929, the Eighth Philippine Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 56 creating an Intermediate Court of Appeals. This bill was vetoed by Governor-General Stimson on account of certain objections. A similar bill, corrected so as to meet the objections presented by the Governor-General, was again passed in the following regular session of the Philippine Legislature, and although the same was approved by the Governor-General, it was not ratified by the Congress of the United States and therefore never took effect.

The attached bill has been prepared by the Department of Justice in consultation with the Chief Justice and other members of the present Supreme Court. Every effort has been made to have the provisions of the bill meet the present situation, without impairing the authority of the Supreme Court as a court of last resort. It is believed that by the passage of this Act the Supreme Court would be so relieved of cases of minor importance that it will be enabled to dispose of the necessary time to give proper consideration to legal questions submitted to it, and to ultimately become a doctrine-laying tribunal—the proper role which it should occupy in our judicial hierarchy.

I am informed that the attached measure involves an actual outlay of only P175,820, over and above the appropriation for the Supreme Court in the Budget for 1935. I am confident that this small outlay of public funds is more than compensated by the advantages that would be derived from the establishment of the Court of Appeals sought in the attached bill.

In view of the foregoing, I cannot but urge the National Assembly to give early and favorable consideration to the attached bill.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Government Reorganization, December 12, 1935

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on Government Reorganization**

[Released on December 12, 1935]

We need to insure the expeditious transaction of the public business, for nothing breeds more discontent or casts discredit on a government in the eyes of the people than its inability to act with reasonable promptness.

Every effort should be made to introduce the approved practices of private business in all government office.

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I wish to submit to your consideration the necessity of devising plans for the reorganization, of the Government to effect economy in expenditures and efficiency and simplification in its operation.

Confronted as we are with increasing demands on the public treasury, we cannot escape the duty of practising the strictest economy in government expenditures. We must retrench if we hope to maintain our Budget in balance. Wherever a saving can be made, whether by elimination of unnecessary activities or personnel, or be a reduction of excessive salaries and other expenses, it should be accomplished as soon as possible.

Together with the efforts to effect economy we should promote efficiency and simplify the operation of the Government. Duplication or overlapping of functions should be avoided. With new problems before us we should determine the relative importance of the different government activities and lay the proper emphasis upon each of them. We need to insure the expeditious transaction of the public business, for nothing breeds more discontent or casts discredit on a government in the eyes of the people than its inability to act with reasonable promptness. Every effort should be made to introduce the approved practices of private business in all government offices.

I am not at present in possession of all the necessary information upon which to base concrete proposals for a thorough reorganization of the Government along the lines I have mentioned. Careful investigation by competent men will be required to obtain and study all relevant facts and correlate them with the financial resources of the Government. For this purpose I propose the appointment of a non-political board of three members to make factual survey of all departments of the public service and submit recommendations concerning reforms in the Government organization, the number and classification of positions, a standardization of salaries and wages, housing and equipment of the various offices, and such other matters as may be presented to its consideration by the Executive. A report on these subjects will be valuable to the National Assembly and will greatly assist me in formulating the annual budget as enjoined by the Constitution.

I am recommending a non-political board in order that we may profit by the experience of able men engaged in private enterprises. Moreover, by this means we shall allow the general public, so to speak, to look the Government over, and give us their views on the methods we employ in its administration. It is essential that the functioning of the Government be better understood by the people, and the Government itself brought closer to them.

The proposed Board will be able to see the Government as an integral whole comprising a vast business organization, requiring simplicity, economy, and efficiency. In the past, various attempts to effect economies were met with the opposition of government officials, each seeking to establish the relative importance of his bureau or office to obtain the largest assignments for salaries and other appropriations. This Board will not be hampered by this almost inevitable competition and will be able to give us unbiased judgment regarding the minimum needs of each dependency of the Government.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment of appropriate legislation creating this Government Survey Board, defining its powers and duties, and appropriating not more than fifty thousand pesos for its expenses.

In order not to delay reforms in the Government organization and to avoid unnecessary expenditures, I urge that in the same law the Executive be given for a limited period ample authority to effect, by Executive Order, changes in the different departments, bureaus, and offices of the Government, with power to transfer functions, appropriations, properties, bureaus, offices or personnel from one department, bureau or office to another, classify positions and standardize salaries, eliminate unnecessary activities or personnel, reduce salaries, combine positions, and do whatever is necessary to effect economy and efficiency in the Government service. This authority is to extend for a period not exceeding six months, and all changes ordered by the President under this authority are to be reported to the National Assembly for such action as it may deem proper.

With the authority which I request in this message, I shall be able to submit to our consideration at the time specified by the Constitution a budget which will eliminate extravagance in expenditures, insure economy and efficiency, and provide for a government conducted at a reasonably low cost but capable of rendering the greatest service to the people.

Considering the importance of this matter, I trust the Assembly will accord it early consideration.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Office of Resident Commissioner, December 13, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON OFFICE OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 13, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I beg to call your attention to the provisions of section 2 of the Ordinance appended to the Constitution referring to the appointment of a Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States. In view of the impending session of Congress, and the many important matters that will have to be taken up with the United States Government at Washington during the first years of the Commonwealth, it is expedient that the National Assembly should consider and approve, as early as possible, legislation for the establishment and maintenance of this high office. In appropriating funds for this purpose, consideration should be given to the importance of the office and the fact that only one Resident Commissioner may now be appointed to perform the duties heretofore devolving upon two Resident Commissioners as provided in the Jones Law. I, therefore, urge upon the National Assembly the prompt consideration and passage of legislation on this subject.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on National Assembly Appropriation, December 16, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATION
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 16, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

It has been brought to my attention that the appropriations for the National Assembly for 1935 and 1936 need to be readjusted in order to provide for the due organization of the personnel of that Honorable Body. In accordance with the provisions of section 1 (*a*) of Act No. 4230 and section 1 (2) of Act No. 4231, you may, therefore, consider in this special session the necessary readjustments in the present appropriations for the National Assembly.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Cebu Junior College Fund, December 16, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON CEBU JUNIOR COLLEGE FUND

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 16, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to submit for your early consideration a bill appropriating the sum of P30,000 for the operation and maintenance of the Junior College of Liberal Arts of the University of the Philippines in the Province of Cebu during the fiscal year 1936.

Act No. 4244 approved on October 10, 1935, declared the Junior College of Liberal Arts in the Province of Cebu to be a permanent branch of the University of the Philippines but allotted only the amount of P10,000 for the maintenance of that branch for the remainder of the fiscal year 1935. That Act also provides that in succeeding years the operating expenses thereof in the amount of P30,000 shall be included in the annual appropriation act for the University of the Philippines in the General Appropriation Acts. There is, therefore, a need of either a special law or a supplementary appropriation law setting aside P30,000 for the Junior College of Cebu for 1936.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Olympics Fund, December 16, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON OLYMPICS FUND

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 16, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to submit to your consideration the request of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation for funds to finance the sending of a suitable delegation to represent the Philippines in the coming World Olympic Games to be held in Berlin in August of 1936. The Philippines has been represented in every olympiad since 1924 and it would seem appropriate that in this first year of the Commonwealth the Filipino people should have an adequate delegation at the XI World Championship Games. I, therefore, commend to your careful consideration the petition of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation for an appropriation of P60,000, as contained in their attached resolution.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Philippine Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Civil Service, December 16, 1935

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Civil Service**

[December 16, 1935]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Article XI of our Constitution requires that a Civil Service embracing all branches and subdivisions of the Government shall be provided by law. The present Civil Service Law as embodied in the Revised Administrative Code of 1917 insofar as it has been enforced to date, has built up an organization of civil servants worthy of the highest respect and consideration. It must have been the example of this strong body of public servants that has inspired the Constitutional Convention to make careful provision in our Constitution that the civil service may embrace all branches and subdivisions of the Government.

To carry out the plain intent of this constitutional mandate, I have considered it my duty to lay before you the enclosed bill amending the corresponding sections of the present Civil Service Law, not only by extending its effects to all branches and subdivisions of the Government, but also by requiring a stricter adherence to the principles underlying any system of civil service.

I call special attention to section 683 of the present Administrative Code permitting the Chief Executive, for the good of the civil service, with the consent of the Philippine Senate, to make appointments to positions in the classified civil service without regard to the examination requirements of the law. I am recommending the elimination of this legal provision in our Civil Service Law, because I consider its existence a continuous threat to the inviolability of the Civil Service Rules.

Attention is likewise invited to the provision of section 675 of the present Administrative Code in which power is reserved in the Chief Executive to waive the legal requirements as to citizenship. In view of the nationalistic principles underlying the Constitution, I am recommending the repeal of this privilege.

The enactment of this measure is absolutely indispensable at this time, since it is important that at the very outset of this Government, the principles of the Civil Service Law be duly inculcated in the entire public service. Only by such legislation may we secure "an honest and efficient administration" of the Government under the Civil Service Law. I, therefore, urge upon the National Assembly to give careful consideration and to approve at the earliest possible date the enclosed draft of amendments to the present Civil Service Law, and thereby carry out to the utmost extent the letter and spirit of the constitutional mandate regarding the Civil Service.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Public Calamities Fund, December 17, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON PUBLIC CALAMITIES FUND
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 17, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to submit to your careful consideration the following matters which require legislative action in the interest of the public service.

1. An appropriation of P100,000 for relief and rehabilitation of indigent sufferers from typhoons, floods, and other public calamities. Funds have been appropriated for this purpose for the years 1934 and 1935, but no provision has been made for any calamity that might occur during 1936.
2. An appropriation of P90,000 for the operation and maintenance of previously-authorized additional wards in the Insular Psychopathic Hospital at Mandaluyong, Rizal, for which no provision has been made in the Appropriation Act for 1936.
3. An appropriation of P100,000 for the establishment of a leper colony or colonies and for the maintenance, treatment, and hospitalization of lepers in Luzon. This will relieve the congestion of lepers in San Lazaro Hospital and will preclude the necessity of sending them to Culion.

In view of the urgency of these matters and the shortness of the time remaining of the special session, I hereby certify pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Budget for Resident Commissioner's Office,
December 18, 1935**

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON BUDGET FOR RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 18, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

In connection with my message, dated December 13, regarding the office of the Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States, I am submitting for your consideration a budget for the salary and other expenses for the Resident Commissioner and his office in Washington as follows:

Salary for the Resident Commissioner
Salaries for secretarial and clerical staffs
Stationery, postage, and telegraph service
Allowance in lieu of transportation expenses
Allowance in lieu of representation expenses
Rental for the official residence and office of the Resident Commissioner
Total

In view of the urgency of this matter and the shortness of the period remaining of the present special session, I hereby certify, pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Probation Office, December 18, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON PROBATION OFFICE

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 18, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

In August of this year, Act No. 4221 establishing: adult probation in the Philippines was approved. That law appropriated the sum of P50,000 for the establishment and maintenance of the Probation Office. This sum or the greater portion thereof has not as yet been expended; but it appears that in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the Appropriation Law for 1935 the unexpended balance of the amount of P50,000 thus set aside shall revert, at the end of this year, to the unappropriated surplus in the Insular Treasury and shall not be available for expenditure for the year 1936. No law has so far been approved providing for the expenses of the Probation Office for the year 1936; and unless appropriate legislation is enacted in the present session of the National Assembly, the Probation Office and probation work will automatically stop at the beginning of next year for lack of funds.

I, therefore, urge the approval of the enclosed bill, the purpose of which is simply to authorize the expenditure during the year 1936 of the balance of the amount of P50,000 appropriated by Act No. 4221 for the maintenance of the Probation Office and the continuation of the probation work. Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of this measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Creation of National Economic Council,
December 18, 1935**

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON CREATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

[Delivered in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building
December 18, 1935]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

At your inaugural session I addressed you on the important question of national defense. I wish now to present to your consideration certain legislative proposals dealing with our economic problems which I consider equally urgent and important.

The present Government of the Commonwealth was established in order that we may prepare the Philippines for the responsibilities of independent nationhood. The transition period of ten years was set up, not only that we may effect the political changes leading to independence, but also to bring about a gradual, systematic and sound adjustment and reconstruction of our national economy so as to adapt it to our already modified conditions and to those that will obtain when we shall have become a completely sovereign state. Our political problems are in process of solution: we have approved a Constitution, we have organized a government pursuant to its provisions, you are about to provide the country with an adequate system of national defense. There will soon be very little remaining in the way of preparing ourselves politically for our new status. Our economic problems, in a sense more urgent, because they affect directly the lives of the people, likewise deserve immediate attention. It is incumbent upon this Government without delay to formulate plans for our economic adjustment and reconstruction and provide the means to insure the carrying out of such plans.

Our objective is clear and definite. We want to build up a reasonably stable economic structure capable of serving the financial and other needs of the nation, supplying the masses of the people with the basic social requirements and the essentials in food, clothing, and shelter, and providing them with the opportunities to toil and earn a decent livelihood. With our abundant natural resources, I have faith that this can be accomplished, if business will give the Government its confidence and the people their unswerving support.

To do this it will not be necessary to undertake new experiments in social control nor to change the nature of our democratic institutions. I propose to follow only safe and trodden paths, those which by our own experience and the experience of other countries impress themselves as the wisest and most advantageous course.

From the very nature of things it is evident that we cannot transform our national economy overnight. We cannot change from one crop to another in a month. We cannot readjust our industries or establish new ones and find profitable markets for their products in one year. Time is needed to effect these changes. There should be no undue impatience on the part of the people for widespread tangible results. But we must immediately begin to lay the foundations for this imperative national undertaking by providing the necessary machinery for its successful execution.

Since the World War the nations of the earth have been grappling with difficult economic problems. The forces at play affecting the economy of nations have become more and more confused and complex. Today, in other parts of the world, it is seldom that individuals are left to engage in productive enterprise without Government intervention, nor are they able to attain any degree of business stability without some assistance from the State. Different countries have been implementing economic laws by artificial schemes to safeguard the national economy. It can be stated truthfully that practically every government today realizes the need of a reasonably precise economic orientation.

Many methods looking to this end are being tried. Economic planning is the phrase used to describe these activities, but they vary materially in the different countries, both as to scope and objectives, and the means employed. While we can profit by the experience of other nations in this regard, we must proceed with caution and deliberate conservatism, for interference with economic laws is too often fraught with grave danger. We should only attempt to regulate the operation of these laws, when it is clear that to do otherwise might lead to ruin or economic disaster, or leave serious social problems unsolved.

I favor economic planning to the extent of providing the nation with the necessary leadership to balance and strengthen our economy, establish the proper relationship between our economic activities and our national needs, correlate productive energy with labor, capital and credit facilities, and direct the wise utilization of our natural resources—all with the view of securing the well-being of the people. The stimulus of private profit alone cannot accomplish these aims, for money seeks investments for gain, irrespective of the consequences which they may entail on the Government, on the people or on their legitimate desire to attain adequate social standards. Economic activity must be developed primarily to serve the interests of the whole nation, and should be guided towards profitable, convenient, and stable channels where it can render the greatest good to the people at large.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

In order to undertake the task of planning our national economy, giving our economic development a rational and definite direction, and coordinating the efforts of the Government with private initiative looking to the promotion of desirable economic enterprises, I propose the establishment of a National Economic Council, composed of members appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, not exceeding fifteen, with such powers and duties as are outlined in this message. This Council shall advise the Government on economic and financial questions, including the improvement of existing industries and the promotion of new ones, diversification of crops and production, tariffs, taxation, and such other matters as may from time to time be submitted to its consideration by the President. It should have the power to employ technical men and economic investigators to obtain all the information that it may require in the formulation of policies. I recommend for the year nineteen hundred and thirty-six an appropriation of one hundred fifty thousand pesos for the expenses of this Council. The compensation of its members and personnel shall be fixed by the President.

It is my purpose to appoint to this Economic Council the members of the Cabinet whose departments are directly concerned with economic activities, and also leaders in agriculture, labor, commerce, and industry, so that we may coördinate our economic energies and have the means of obtaining the views of private business concerning economic or financial measures that may be proposed.

Under the direction of the National Economic Council, we shall make as complete a survey as possible of our natural resources, map out a provident utilization of these resources for the benefit of the whole nation, and adopt plans for the conservation of these resources in order that the future generations of Filipinos may not be deprived of the national patrimony. The Council shall conduct systematic researches with the assistance of the ablest experts available, and survey the possibilities of our local market and of foreign trade to find what products or articles that we can profitably produce may obtain an advantageous market locally or abroad on a competitive basis. Once these products or articles are determined, the Government should afford every facility to citizens who may wish to engage in their production.

The problem of unemployment in the Philippines is becoming more serious every day. But unemployment can only be solved by providing opportunities for gainful work. There is very little more that the Government can do directly

along this line. We cannot create more jobs in the Government. In fact we might find ourselves compelled to reduce positions in the public service in order to effect economies. It is in the field of private enterprise through the expansion of some of our industries and the creation of new ones, that opportunity lies to provide work to those who are unemployed. If Government assistance is needed in the establishment or promotion of these industries, it should be given. Moreover, the Government should assure private capital engaged in these industries that it will be given necessary protection to insure the success of these enterprises.

I am not in favor of the Government engaging directly in business enterprises that could well be left in the hands of private individuals, except as to some public utilities. However, if no private capital is available or willing to undertake the establishment of an industry which may be considered necessary and urgent for purposes of national defense, to provide the national economy with an indispensable requirement, or to promote the public welfare, the Government should alone or in coöperation with the private capital establish and operate that industry.

The Government already has an adequate instrumentality through which to engage in or promote necessary enterprises. I refer to the National Development Company. It is my intention to reorganize this company to place its finances on a business basis and provide it with funds necessary to carry out the policies which may be approved.

BOARD OF CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT COMPANIES

Since the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Board of Control case the Governor-General has exercised exclusively the right to vote the stocks of the Government in the Government companies, to the exclusion of other officers designated by law to participate in the power to vote these stocks. In order to avoid future controversy concerning this matter, I propose that the laws relative to these Government companies be amended so as to authorize the President of the Philippines or any official of the Government designated by him to vote these stocks and exercise all the powers which were formerly exercised by the Board of Control.

INVESTMENT OF FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Different branches and agencies of the Government are administering certain fiduciary funds, as for example, the Teachers' Pension Fund, the funds of the Friar Lands Estate and the San Lazaro Estate, the different assurance funds, and the funds of the Postal Savings Bank. These funds are available for investment in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed in their respective laws.

In order to effect economy and insure safety in the investment of these funds, I recommend that all of them be placed under one consolidated management in so far as their investment is concerned. This consolidation will not only provide a more satisfactory method of investment of these funds which amount to many millions of pesos and facilitate the supervision of all transactions, but will also create another instrumentality capable of coöperating in the carrying out of Government policies regarding credit and credit facilities and the maintenance of reasonable interest rates.

I, therefore, recommend that a law be passed creating a Loan and Investment Board composed of five members with such powers and duties as regards to each fund as are now provided in the different laws concerning them. The compensation of the members of this Board and its personnel shall be determined by the President, but the total outlay for this purpose shall not exceed the appropriations now authorized for the different investment boards. This arrangement is to be operative for the year nineteen hundred and thirty-six. It is my intention in succeeding years to include in the Budget of the Government the expenses of this Board.

I trust that the National Assembly will realize the importance of the matters which I am submitting to its consideration in this message, and will take favorable action thereon during this session. In view of the fact that the preset special session is about to close I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation, for the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Flood Control Fund, December 18, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON FLOOD CONTROL FUND
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 18, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I wish to invite your attention to the importance of providing at this time an appropriation of at least P500,000 for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, and extension of dykes and other flood control works on the Agno and Pampanga rivers. The unusual floods on these rivers during last August overtopped the existing dykes in many places and caused a great loss of crops and considerable damage to the Manila Railroad Company's main line north, highways, and towns bordering these rivers. I am informed by the Provincial Governors of Pangasinan and Pampanga that the loss of crops, principally rice, amounted to several millions of pesos. It is also understood that an effort was made to replant the areas that suffered crop losses during the August flood and that the second crop was destroyed by subsequent floods due to the lack of funds for reconstruction purposes.

As you are no doubt aware, the present high prices and shortage of rice may be attributed largely to crop losses caused by floods in the Agno and Pampanga river valleys during 1934 and 1935.

While much larger appropriations amounting to millions of pesos will be required in the future for effectively controlling floods on the Agno and Pampanga rivers, I am informed by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications that P300,000 are urgently needed at the present time for restoring and improving flood control works on the Agno River and P200,000 for the same purposes on the Pampanga River in order that construction work may be carried out during the present dry season and further crop losses and damages to improvements avoided during the next rainy season.

In view of the large amounts involved in completely financing these very important projects, located in the great agricultural district of Central Luzon, and other similar projects, it is proposed to submit for the consideration of the National Assembly, at its regular session, a comprehensive plan for financing such projects whereby the landowners benefited would bear a part of the cost of construction in the form of special assessments against their land.

As the present special session is about to close, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of corresponding legislation for the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Reference: National Assembly, Bill No. 122

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Agricultural Colony Roads, December 19, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON AGRICULTURAL COLONY ROADS
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 19, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Under Act No. 4197, the last Legislature appropriated the sum of one million pesos for the establishment of agricultural colonies in Mindanao. This law was passed for two main reasons—the desire of the Philippine Legislature to assist the solution of the unemployment problem, and to promote the settlement and development of Mindanao. I have given careful consideration to the plans heretofore formulated by the different agencies of the Government entrusted with the accomplishment of the purposes of this Act, and I find that the probability of recovering the amounts to be advanced to the colonists with interest at four per cent as provided in the law is very doubtful, to say the least.

Experience has shown that wherever roads and other means of communications have been introduced to open up rich areas to settlement by the public, voluntary colonization has invariably followed without the necessity of advancing considerable sums of money to the colonists. It is believed that if the sums already appropriated under this Act be spent in the opening up of roads through regions already selected for colonization and through others that may hereafter be found to be adapted for this purpose, the Government can bring about a voluntary colonization of the adjoining areas. I would, therefore, recommend that this law be amended so as to permit the expenditure of the funds therein appropriated as above outlined and for this purpose the enclosed draft of a bill is submitted for your consideration and early approval.

In view of the immediate necessity of assisting in the solution of the problem of unemployment now existing, and for the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Friar Land Purchase, December 19, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON FRIAR LAND PURCHASE
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 19, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Resolution No. 2 of the Tenth Philippine Legislature, entitled,

Joint Resolution authorizing the Governor-General of the Government of the Philippine Islands to enter into negotiations with the owners of the estates in Manila, Batangas, Laguna, Bulacan, Bataan, and Rizal, for the purchase of the same, the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce was authorized by the Governor-General to conduct preliminary negotiations with the various owners of the different estates mentioned in said resolution, and a report on said negotiations was duly transmitted to the Philippine Legislature on September 24, 1935. Since the filing of said report, the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce has continued with the negotiations, but so far no definite agreement has been reached with the owners of these estates relative to the price at which the said estates may be purchased, nor with the various tenants as to the conditions under which the said tenants would purchase the said lands, once acquired by the Government. I would have desired to have positive legislation enacted at this session which would permit affirmative action on the part of the Executive to bring about the acquisition of these large estates and the resale thereof to the tenants. However, I do not have in my possession the necessary information as to the exact amount of the funds required for this purpose nor the conditions under which this transaction may be brought about. Further negotiations should, therefore, be undertaken in order to arrive at some definite decision both as to the price and the conditions of the purchase as well as of the resale. Under the Joint Resolution above mentioned, I find sufficient authority under which I could continue with these negotiations. I propose to carry these through to a definite conclusion as soon as possible, and when the regular session of the National Assembly opens I hope to be able to present to you for consideration a concrete proposition which would carry out the laudable purpose underlying the adoption of the Joint Resolution above mentioned.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Necessity of Immediate Enactment of Bills,
December 19, 1935**

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON NECESSITY OF IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF BILLS

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 19, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the following bills during the present special session:

- 1. Bill No 119.*—An Act to provide for the purchase or redemption before maturity of certain outstanding Manila Railroad Company First Mortgage Southern Lines Four Per Cent Gold Bonds due May first nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, and for other purposes.
- 2. Bill No 163.*—An Act authorizing the Philippine National Bank to write up the value of certain assets which have been eliminated or reduced in pursuance of Act Numbered Thirty-one hundred and seventy-four, to pay to the Government an equivalent amount thereof, and for other purposes.
- 3. Bill No 133.*—An Act giving the President for a limited period authority to effect urgent reforms and changes in the different executive departments, bureaus, and offices of the Government for purposes of economy and efficiency, creating a Government Survey Board and appropriating the necessary funds therefor, and for other purposes.
- 4. Bill No 157.*—An Act to amend certain provisions of the Revised Administrative Code on the Judiciary, by reducing the number of Justices of the Supreme Court and defining its jurisdiction and creating the Court of Appeals and defining its jurisdiction, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes.
- 5. Bill No. 168.*—An Act amending and repealing some of the provisions of chapter twenty-seven of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, commonly known as the Administrative Code of nineteen hundred and seventeen, to conform with the Constitution of the Philippines, and for other purposes.
- 6. Bill No. 87.*—An Act to appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand pesos for the purpose of carrying out the campaign for the extermination or control of locust to be expended in the manner and purposes specified in Act Numbered Thirty-nine hundred and twenty-four, and for the control of other plant pests and diseases, and for other purposes.
- 7. Bill No. 102.*—An Act appropriating the sum of sixty thousand pesos to defray the expenses of a Filipino delegation to the Eleventh Olympiad.

8. *Bill No. 161.*—An Act to appropriate the sum of thirty thousand pesos for the operation and maintenance of the Junior College of Liberal Arts of the University of the Philippines in the municipality of Cebu, Province of Cebu, during the fiscal year nineteen hundred thirty-six, and for other purposes.

9. *Bill No. 101.*—An Act designating the date for the opening of the annual sessions of the National Assembly.

10. *Bill No. 139.*—An Act to amend section two, letter B, of Act Numbered Four thousand one hundred eighty-seven as authorized and amended by section one of Act Numbered Four thousand two hundred thirty-one, and for other purposes.

11. *Bill No. 21.*—An Act fixing the salary of the Speaker of the National Assembly at twelve thousand pesos per annum.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Inauguration Expenses Deficit, December 19, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON INAUGURATION EXPENSES DEFICIT
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 19, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I am informed by the Committee appointed by the former Governor-General to take charge of the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines that the money appropriated under Act No. 4248 by the last Legislature is not sufficient to cover all the expenses of the official guests invited by the Government to attend the inauguration. I request, therefore, that the appropriation authorized under said Act be increased by P40,000, making the total appropriation for the purpose P290,000.

In view of the short time remaining of the present special session, I hereby certify for the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Traveling Expenses for Resident Commissioner and Staff, December 19, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
**ON TRAVELING EXPENSES FOR RESIDENT COMMISSION
AND STAFF**
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 19, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

In connection with my message, dated December 18, submitting a budget for the salary and other expenses of the Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States, I have the honor to recommend that an item for traveling expenses of the Resident Commissioner while in the United States and for his secretarial and clerical staffs to and from the United States be included as follows:

For actual and necessary traveling expenses of the Resident Commissioner within the United States and of his secretarial and clerical staffs to and from the United States

With this amendment, the total budget for the Office of the Resident Commissioner will be P51,200.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Rice and Corn Problem, December 19, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE RICE AND CORN PROBLEM
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 19, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

One of the most serious and immediate problems which confront our new Government is that which concerns the supply and price of rice and corn, the two main staple foods of our people. It is essential that we devise ways and means whereby we may insure at all times an ample supply of these commodities at reasonable prices to the consumer while at the same time enabling the producer to receive an adequate return for his investment and efforts so as to encourage him to continue producing locally these products thereby making our country self-sufficing in this respect.

Especially during the year 1936 will this problem become more acute owing to the drought, typhoons, and plant pests which prevailed during the year 1935. Immediate action must, therefore, be taken to insure a sufficient supply of said commodities and give relief in the matter of prices to the hard-pressed small farmers and “kasamas.”

I consider that the solution to this problem is most urgent and bring it to your attention for the enactment of the corresponding legislation. For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of this measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Port Works Fund Transfer to General Fund,
December 20, 1935**

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON PORT WORKS FUND TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 20, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Under the provisions of Act No. 3592 creating a special fund for the investigation, construction, improvement, and maintenance of ports, including the purchase and maintenance of necessary equipment, by operation of law forty per centum of the funds collected every year is set aside for the maintenance of all port works already existing and sixty per centum is made available for investigation, construction, and improvement of ports.

Prior to the approval of this Act, the Government authorized the issue of bonds for the ports of Manila, Cebu, and Iloilo, and by virtue of the provisions of the law authorizing the issue (Act Nos. 2908, 3403, and 3417) the payment of interest and sinking funds on these bonds have been regularly paid from the General Fund in the Treasury. As there are other requirements of the Government more urgent and necessary than the investigation, construction, and improvement of port works, it is deemed advisable that during the coming year of 1936 payment of the interest and sinking funds on port works bonds be paid from the sixty per centum created by Act No. 3592, so that in this way the portion of the General Fund heretofore used for this purpose will be left free for other expenditures.

In view of the foregoing, it is recommended that a law be passed authorizing the transfer of the sum not to exceed P500,000 out of the sixty per centum made available for investigation, construction, and improvement of ports from the "Port Works Fund" created by Act No. 3592 to the General Fund, in accordance with the practice which has been followed in previous years.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of this measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Surigao Election, December 20, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON SURIGAO ELECTION
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 20, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 475 of Act No. 2711, I hereby certify that in the election for members of the National Assembly held in the Province of Surigao on September 17, 1935, Ricardo Navarro and Clementino V. Diez each received 5,642 votes, the election thereby resulting in a tie. Attached hereto is a certified copy of the certificate of the Provincial Board of Canvassers of Surigao issued under section 17 of Act No. 4203.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Trade Conference Fund, December 20, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON TRADE CONFERENCE FUND

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 20, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

The President of the United States is empowered by the Tydings-McDuffie Law to call a joint trade conference after the inauguration of the Commonwealth Government to consider the future trade relations between the Philippines and the United States. While it is not known when this conference will be called by the President of the United States, there is nothing to prevent its being called at any time during the year 1936. The Philippines is to be represented in the aforesaid conference. It is essential, therefore, that the necessary funds be made available for the expenses of the Philippine delegation to that conference, should it be called before the next regular session of the National Assembly. I recommend the appropriation of the sum of fifty thousand pesos for this purpose.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the legislation above indicated.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Bilibid Prison Transfer, December 20, 1935

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON BILIBID PRISON TRANSFER

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 20, 1935

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

The transfer of Bilibid Prison to a site outside of the City of Manila is a problem that needs prompt solution. By Act No. 3984 passed on December 9, 1932, the sale of the lands and buildings constituting the present site was authorized. These properties are carried on the books of the Government at a valuation of P1,914,197.63. The law, however, has failed to provide a practical method of bringing about the transfer intended, for, obviously the sale of the present site cannot be effected so long as there is no other place to which the prisoners may be transferred. The attached bill has been prepared to remedy this situation without making any appropriation from the funds of the Government. In view of the necessity of quick action, I strongly recommend the enactment of this measure.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of immediate enactment of the measure mentioned above.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Congratulatory Speech of President Quezon to the First National Assembly

Congratulatory Speech of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon President of the Philippines To the First National Assembly

[Delivered during the Closing Session of the National Assembly on December 21, 1935]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I am on a very pleasant errand to-night. I have come to convey to you in person my warmest congratulations upon the unparalleled record you have made in this, your inaugural session. I know of no instance in which the Legislative Department of a new government, within the first month of its existence, has accomplished as much in the way of passing laws of transcendental importance to a nation as this Assembly has enacted in this special session. And the significance of your achievement will be better realized if it is considered that you have just been through a hard-fought political campaign. It is easy enough to urge that partisan politics be set aside when the interests of the people are at stake, and to proclaim "country above party." But when the moment comes for these highly patriotic pronouncements to be translated into action, only true and tested public-spirited men can overcome the passions and prejudices of human nature. And you have done it. Though bitter political enemies only yesterday, you have come to an agreement and have cooperated with one another to place in positions of responsibility and power those amongst you who should be entrusted with the leadership of the Legislative Department. Thus you were able within the short space of one month to organize this Assembly, and adopt new liberal and progressive rules which have done away with objectionable practices in the past, placing the power and responsibility of legislation where it properly belongs—upon the Assembly itself. Had you done nothing else but to bring about these reforms and complete your organization, you would have done enough. But you have done more: You have passed all the most urgent and important measures necessary for the successful realization of the purpose for which the Government of the Commonwealth has been established,—measures that as a party we were pledged to enact pursuant to our platform and our commitments and declarations during the election campaign.

You have approved a National Defense Act, which reaffirms to the world that our objective is complete independence, and that we shall be ready to defend it with the entire man power and with all the resources, public and private, of the nation. You have created a National Economic Council which will advise the Government in the planning of our national economy, with a view to making this country, as far as possible, economically self-sufficient and self-dependent, and will correlate the economic activities of the country to strengthen our economic structure and insure the well-being and contentment of all our people. You have given the Executive, subject to proper limitations, the necessary powers to proceed to reorganize the Executive Department, so that the administration of public affairs may be made simple, economic, and efficient. You have also passed laws needed to execute important constitutional provisions, such as those creating the Court of Appeals, and providing for the establishment and maintenance of the office of the Resident Commissioner. Besides, you have created a National Investment and Loan Board, for the purpose of coordinating under a central direction the several loanable funds amounting to some millions of pesos which at present are administered by different boards and offices of the Government. In order to maintain the national credit and effect large savings, you have approved the measure authorizing a loan to the Manila Railroad Company for the redemption before maturity of a great portion of its bonds. These and the other measures you have enacted have earned for the National Assembly the commendation of the whole country.

There is one measure which would have given me the greatest satisfaction to recommend for enactment at this time, and that is, legislation that would solve once and for all the problem of the relationship between the tenants and the landowners, especially in the large estates. In a message that I sent to the Assembly on this subject, I expressed my hope to be able to carry to a definite conclusion the present negotiations for the purchase and resale of the different large estates presently owned by private corporations. It is well to bear in mind, however, that the mere acquisition of these estates by the Government may not after all solve the social and labor questions that they have produced. The problem involved in the relationship between tenants and landowners, whether within large or small estates,

owned by individuals or by corporations, public or private, transcends in importance practically all other social problems of the Philippines. Lack of fairness in the treatment of the workingman in the field necessarily results in social unrest. I have no doubt that if we could secure for every tenant or field hand what in equity should come to him, as his share in the products of his toil there would be more contentment amongst the poorer classes of our people. But I have not been able to recommend to you at this short session the legislation needed on this subject, because the Government is not in possession of all the facts required to formulate a definite policy, with the certainty that the rights of all the parties concerned have been duly considered. The difficulty in the solution of this problem is complicated by the lack of a uniform tenancy system in the Philippines, as each province has its own created and developed by century-old customs and practices. And not only has each province a system distinct from the others, but at times that system varies in the different municipalities; and even within a municipality not all the landowners follow the same practice. It is imperative, therefore, that a complete study of all the facts be made before proposals of corrective legislation can be made, and for this purpose I have already ordered a thorough investigation of this all-important question.

Another matter equally urgent which I would have requested the National Assembly to consider in this special session is the problem of revising the several pension systems now in force. Based on the actuarial valuations made in 1929 by the Bureau of Efficiency in Washington, the Teachers' Retirement and Disability Fund, the Pension and Retirement Fund of the Philippine Health Service, and the Constabulary Pension and Retirement Fund, all have possible deficits aggregating P62,000,000 this year, and which may reach the enormous sum of P85,000,000 in 1940. Evidently, time will come when it shall be impossible to continue paying gratuities, not only to those who have actually retired, but, what is worse, to the present contributors when their turn to retire arrives. There are now about thirty-five thousand employees contributing to these funds who are required by existing laws to continue supporting with their contributions those who have already retired, and who have not contributed proportionately to the respective fund. In order to protect the interest of these contributors, to safeguard the solvency of the pension funds, and to prevent the Government from being placed in an embarrassing financial position, this question should be given most serious consideration during the recess of the National Assembly, to the end that in its next regular session a wise solution of the problem may be found which will do justice to the employees concerned and the interest of the Government as well.

Let me again extend to you my most sincere congratulations. In the performance of your task during this short session you have set up a high record of patriotic and fruitful achievements.

This successful commencement of your legislative labors augurs well for the future. With the same spirit of cooperation amongst yourselves, and as between this Assembly and the Executive, as has existed during this initial period of our new Government, I feel that we can face the problems ahead of us with faith, serenity, and confidence.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon at the closing of the First Special Session of the National Assembly [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Manuel L. Quezon
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagtatapos ng Unang Di-Karaniwang Pulong ng Batasang-Bansa**

[Ipinahayag noong ika 12 ng Disyembre, 1935]

MARANĜÁL NA ESPIKER, KAGINOOHAN NĜ BATASÁNG-BANSA:

Nápakagandang tungkulin ang tutupdin ko ngayóng gabí. Naparito akó upáng akó na rin ang maghatíd sa inyo nĝ aking maligayang bati at tapát na paghangá sa waláng katulad ninyong pagkakápanĝatawán sa mabibigát na gáwaing kinásuunĝán na ninyo sa káuna-unahan pa lamang na mĝa pagpupulong na itó. Walá akóng naálaalang isá man lamang pangyayari, na ang kágawaran nĝ pagbabatás nĝ isáng bagong pámahalaan, sa loob lamang nĝ unang buwán nĝ kanyang pagkátatág, ay nakapagpatibay na nĝ marami't nápakamahahalagáng batás na gaya nĝ napagtibay nĝ Batasáng itó sa di-karaniwang pagpupulong na ngayó'y idinaraos. At ang mataas na kahulugán nĝ ganyan ninyong nagawâ ay masusukat nang lalong magalíng kung pag-íisiping kagagaling pa lamang ninyo sa isáng nápakasugíd na pagtutunggalian sa pulítika. Madalíng sabihi't hingíng ang pulítikang makalapián ay itabí na muna habang ang mĝa kapakanán nĝ bayan ay siyáng kinákailanĝang mápagitná, gayón din ang ipahayag na “ang bayan ay dapat ipaibabaw sa lapián.” Datapwâ, kapág dumaratíng na ang mĝa sandalíng kailanĝang ganapín ang ganyang nápakamakabayang hingí't pahayag, ay bíbihiràin ang mĝa taong may wagás na kagitingán at subók na tibay nĝ loob na nakasusupil sa kaimbután nĝ sarili at nakalalaban sa mĝa hibò nĝ sariling kapakanán. At ang mĝa bihirang taong iyán ay naging kayó. Bagamán kákahapon lamang halos na kayó'y mababanĝís na magkakaaway sa pulítika, dapwa't nakuha ninyong humantong ngayón sa pagkakásundò at kayu-kayó'y nagtulunĝán sa paglikhá nĝ mĝa tungkulin at paghirang nĝ mĝa manúnungkulan, na ináakalá ninyong siyáng mĝa karapat-dapat mamatnugot sa kágawarang tagapagbatás na inyong hináhawakan. Sa ganitóng paraan, at sa walá pang sambuwán halos, ay naari ninyong iayos at pairalin ang Batasáng itó, tulóy nakapagpatibay kayó nĝ wasto't makabagong mĝa palátuntunang walá na nĝ mĝa luma't di-wastong pamalakad: anupá't náilagáy ninyo ang tunay na kapangyariha't pananagutan nĝ pagbabatás sa talagáng dapat kálagyan, na dili ibá't ang Batasáng-Bansa na nĝâ. Kásakdalang walá kayóng mĝa ibá pang nagawâ kundí ang magpairal lamang nĝ ganyang pagbabago at mag-ayos nĝ inyong kalagayan, ay masasabi ring nakagawâ kayó nang dí na alanĝán sa inyong katungkulan. Nĝuni't hindi lamang iyán ang inyong nagawá't nátamó: Napagtibay rin namán ninyo ang lahat nĝ mĝa panukalang-batás na lalong mahahalagá't kailanĝang pagtibayin agád upáng máibunsod na malwalhati ang tunay na layunín nĝ Malasariling Pámahalaan kung kayâ itó itinatág—mĝa panukalang sa pagka-lapián ay sinagután nating pagtítibayi't paíralin nang alinsunod sa ating iniharáp na palátuntunan nĝ pamamahala at sa ating mĝa ipinanĝakò at ipinahayag sa nagdaang pagtutunggali sa halalan.

Nagpatibay kayó nĝ isáng batás nĝ Pambasang Tangulan, na táhasang nagpápakilala sa sandaigdig na ang tangí't tunay nating layon ay ang ganáp na pagsasarilí, at náhahandâ tayong ipagtanggol ang kasarinlang iyán nang buóng káya nĝ ating pagkatao at sa tulong nĝ lahat-lahát nang mĝa kayamanang pambayan at pangmámamayan nĝ ating bansa. Lumikhâ kayó nĝ isáng Sangguniáng Pambansa sa Kabuhayan na magpapayo sa Pámahalaan sa pagbabanĝon nĝ balangkas nĝ kabuhayan nĝ bansa, na yaón bagáng magawâ, hangga't mangyayari, na ang bayang itó'y magkasya sa kanyang sarili at masapatáng mag-isá ang madlang panĝanĝailanĝan niyá sa buhay, tulóy mapag-ugnay-ugnay ang mĝa kilusán nating pang-kabuhayan hanggang magtamó nĝ kayamana't kaunlaráng sukat makapagdulot nĝ ginhawa't kasyaháng-loob sa buóng sambayanan natin. Pinagkalooban ninyo ang Punong Tagapagpaganáp, sa ilalim nĝ iláng matutuwid na tadhanà, nĝ mĝa kapangyarihang kailanĝang upáng mabago ang pagkakáayos nĝ kasalukuyang kágawarang tagapagpaganáp, na yaón bagáng ang panĝanĝasiwâ nĝ mĝa súlirani't kapakanán nĝ bayan ay magíng lalong magaan, matipíd at mabisâ. Nagpatibay pa rin kayó nĝ mĝa batás na sadyang kailanĝang upáng matupád ang iláng mahahalagáng tadhanà nĝ Saligáng-Batás, kagaya nĝ lumilikhá nĝ Húkuman nĝ mĝa Paghahabol (*Tribunal de Apelaciones*), at nĝ nagpapasya nĝ paglalagáy at naglalaan nĝ mĝa panggugol sa tanggapan ng Sugung-Kinatawán (*Comisionado Residente*) sa Estados Unidos. Bukód sa rito'y lumikhâ rin kayó nĝ isáng Pambasang Lupon sa Pagpapapuhunan at Pagpapautang (*Junta Nacional de Inversión y Préstamos*), upáng mapisan at mapag-ayos-ayos sa ilalim nĝ isáng panĝanĝasiwâ lamang ang lahat nĝ mĝa pananalapíng ipinautang,

na umaabót sa may iláng angaw na piso, at kasalukuyang nasa pangangasiwà ng iba-ibáng lupon at sangáy ng Pámahalaan. Upáng mapangalagàan ang pagtitiwalà ng mga pinagkakautangán sa dangál ng ating bansa at maganáp ang panihala ng pagpapahirám ng salapí sa Samahán ng Perokaril (*Manila Railroad Company*) na máitutubós sa nátitirá pang kautangán nitó bago matapusan ng taning, ay pinagtibay rin ninyo ang isáng panukalang-batás na may ganyang layunín. Itó at ang mga ibáng batás na inyong kalalagdà pa lamang, ay lubós na ikinapagiging-dapat ng Batasáng itó sa matapát na paghangà at matimyas na paunlak ng sambayanáng pilipino.

May isáng panukalang-batás na lalò sanang nakapuspos sa akin ng lugód kung sa pagtatagubilin ko’y námarapat ninyong pagtibayin ngayón din; itó’y dili ibá’t ang panukalang panlutas na sana nang tandisan at panghabang panahón sa mga súliranin ng pagsasamahán ng mga may-pasaka at kasamá o ng mga may-lupà at nanínirahan, lalung-lalò na sa malalakíng asyenda. Sa isáng kalatas na ipinadalá ko sa inyo rin tungkol sa bagay na itó, ay násabi ko ang aking pag-asang malulutas din sa di-kawasà ang mga kasalukuyang nilalakad na pagbili at pagbibili ng iba’t-ibáng malalawak na lupaíng pag-aari ng iláng samahán. Nguni’y hindi dapat mákailáng ang hamak na pagkuha ng Pámahalaan sa nangásabing asyenda ay hindi rin namán makalulunang nang tápuhan sa mga sigalót ng paggawà at paninirahang diyá’y nangyayari. Ang súliraning nápapaloob sa pagsasamahán ng mga magbubukíd at may-pasaka o ng mga nanínirahan at may-lupà, magíng sa malalakí’t magíng sa maliliit na asyendang ari ng pámahalaan o ng mga samaháng pambayan o pambálana, ay siyá na ring naghahawn ng kalubháan sa lahat ng mga ibá pang súliranin ng kabuhaya’t kaayusang-bayan sa Pilipinas. Ang di-paghahari ng katarungán sa pagpapalagay sa manggagawà sa mga bukid ay sáplitang mag-aanak ng mga katiwalián sa pagsasamá at ng mga kabalisanhan sa pamamayan. Walà akóng pag-aálinlang kung magagawà lamang nating ang bawa’t nanínirahan o manggagawà sa bukid ay makátanggap na lagi ng himagál na nárapat niyáng tanggapín, kagaya ng tumbas na bahagi ng mga náaani sa kanyang ginawâ, ay waláng-salang mananaig ang kasyaháng-loob sa karamihan ng ating mga dukhang mámamayan. Datapwa’t hindi ko na nakuhang magtagubilin sa kasalukuyan ninyong pagpupulong ng panukalang kinákailangán sa ganitóng layunín, sapagka’t hangga ngayó’y di pa natitipon ng Pámahalaan ang lahat ng mga kailangang talà at pagkákilala sa mga nangyayari, upáng makapagbanghay ng isáng maliwanag na panihalang makatitiyák na ang mga karapatán ng magkabilang panig na nagkakasálungatan ay para-parang kinilala at tinimbang sa katarungán. Ang kahirapan ng paglutas sa súliraning itó ay pinalulubhá pa ng kawalán ng iisá lamang álituntuning panlahát ng mga pagsasamahán sa lupà sa buóng Pilipinas; palibhasà, bawa’t lalawiga’y may pamalakad na kaní-kanya, na nalikha’t nagtibay sa pag-iral nang alinsunod sa matatandà nang pag-aakala’t kaugalian. At hindi lamang bawa’t lalawiga’y may kanyang sarili’t ibáng pamalakad, kundí kung minsan pa’y nagkakáiba-ibá rin ang mga munisipyo, at kaipalà, sa loob man ng iisáng munisipyo lamang, hindi lahat ng may-lupà o pasaka ay nagkakáisa ng pamalakad. Sa bagay ngang itó’y kinákailangang gumawâ muna ng isáng lúbusang pag-aaral ng lahat ng mga pangyayari bago makapagbanghay ng isáng tiyakang panukalang-batás na panlunas sa nápakalubhang súliraning itó; kayâ namán minarapat ko nang mag-utos ng lalong ganáp na pagsisiyasat hinggil sa násabing mahalagáng súliranin.

Isá pang bagay na nangangailangán din ng madalíng pagpapasya, at hangad ko rin sanang ihingi ng kapatibayán sa di-karaniwang pagpupulong na itó ng Batasán, ay ang pangangailangang pagsuri-suriang mulí ang iba-ibáng mga pamalakad na umiiral sa pagpepensiyón. Alinsunod sa mga pátakaran ng pagsisiyasat na ginawâ noong 1929 ng Bureau of Efficiency sa Washington, ang Salapíng Panlaan sa Pamamahingá ng mga Gurò, ang Salapíng Pamigaypala at Panlaan sa Pamamahingá ng mga Kostabularyo at ang Salapíng Pamigaypala at Panlaan sa Pamamahingá ng mga taga-Káwanihan ng Sanidad, ang lahat ng mga pananalapíng itó’y nábibingit sa sukat mangyaring pagkukulang o dépisit, na ang kabuuá’y aabót sa halagáng P62,000,000 sa taóng itó, at maaari pang sumapit sa kasindal-sindal na halagáng P85,000,000 sa taóng 1940. Waláng kasala-salang daratnan tayo ng panahóng di na maaaring makapagpatuloy sa pagbabayad ng mga bigaypala o pensiyón, hindi lamang sa mga namamahingá na ngayón, kundí ang lalong kasakit-sakit, ay patí sa mga kasalukuyang nagsísiambag sa kabáng-lagakán kung sakaling dumating na ang araw ng kanilá namáng pamamahingá. Sa ngayó’y kuláng-kuláng na tatlumpu’t limáng libo ang mga kawaníng nagsísiambag ng ambag sa násabing mga pananalapíng panlaan at may-tungkuling atas ng mga batás na umiiral na magpatuloy siláng magbayad ng pang-abuloy patí sa mga kawaníng nagsipamahingá na ay hindi nakapagbayad ng karampatan sa kináuukulang kabáng-lagakán. Upáng matangkilik ang kapakanán ng nagsísiambag na itó, upáng matiyák na mabábayaran ng mga pananalapíng panlaan ang mga sinásagutáng pensiyón, at upánding máiilag ang Pámahalaan sa isáng kagípitan malubhá sa pananalapí, ang súliraning itó’y dapat sanang pakápag-aralan ng Batasáng-Bansa samantalang nasa pamamahingá, at nang sa daratíng na karaniwang pagpupulong ay makapagpatibay ng isáng matalinong batás na panlutas sa súliranin, at magbibigáy-katarungán sa kináuukulang mga kawani, bukód sa máililigtas sa pagkagipít ang Pámahalaan.

Sa mga bagay na itó'y ipahintulot ninyong mulí ko kayóng máhandugán ng lalong mataós kong .pasasalamat at maligayang pagbati, alang-alang sa kapuri-puring kasaysayan ng magigiting at matitimyas na bunga ng inyong mga pagsisikap na ipinakita sa ganyang kaikling panahóng inyong ipinagpulong.

Ang pagkakapasimulâ ninyong itó sa pagbabatás na saganà sa malalakíng tagumpay, ay nagbábalitâ na ngayón pa ng mga pagwawaging lalong dakilà na inyong tátamuhín sa hinaharáp. Sa tulong ng diwà ng pagtutulungán ninyu-ninyong magkakasamahán, gayón din ng Batasáng itó at ng Punong Tagapagpaganáp, na siyang naghari sa buóng panahón ng pagpapasimulang itó ng ating bagong Pámahalaan, ay nananalig akóng mapakikiharapán nati't malulutas nang buóng hinahon, tiwalà at pag-asa ang lalong mabibigát na suliraning sa mga balikat nati'y mapapataw sa mga darating na panahón.

(Ladga) **Manuel L. Quezon**
Pangulo ng Pilipinas

MAYNILA, *ika-21 ng Disyembre, 1935.*

Source: University of the Philippines Main Library

Quezon, M. L. (1935). *Talumpati ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas sa pagtatapos ng Unang Di-Karaniwang Pulong ng Batasang-Bansa noong ika-21 ng Disyembre, 1935.* Manila : [s.l.].

Manuel L. Quezon, Second State of the Nation Address, June 16, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the Country's conditions and problems**

[Delivered at the Opening of the First Session in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, Manila on June 16, 1936]

Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Seven months ago this Commonwealth was inaugurated amidst the general rejoicing of our people, and with misgivings on the part of some timorous individuals. Today the Government of the Commonwealth counts with the confidence and respect of all. True, there are still a few prophets of disaster, but these need not seriously disturb us, for it is evident that it is only their wish that is father to their forebodings.

Our Relations with America

Under the provisions of the Independence Act incorporated into our Constitution, the Government of the United States retains direct control and supervision over our foreign affairs, as well as certain specific powers in a few cases of domestic character. These powers are vested in the President of the United States whose representative in the Islands is the United States High Commissioner. My personal and official relations with High Commissioner Frank Murphy have been most cordial, and the highest spirit of cooperation has characterized the transactions of our Government with the Washington Administration.

It was with a deep sense of loss that our people saw High Commissioner Murphy depart for the United States and it is their hope that he will soon return to the Philippines.

The Gold Reserve Funds and the Excise Tax on Oil

It is with regret that I have to inform you that the Senate of the United States has passed a bill repealing the Act recognizing the equity of the Philippine Government on the sum of P47,000,000 arising from the devaluation of the dollar as a reimbursement for the depreciation of our reserves deposited in the United States. Were this bill to pass Congress, our Government would be made to incur a loss or that American officials have done contrary to the recommendation of Filipino representatives. I have not, however, given up the hope that the House of Representatives will not follow the action of the Senate, for I cannot conceive that America, which in this case acted as the guardian of Filipino interests, should want to profit from the losses of her ward. I know that High Commissioner Murphy has done and is doing everything he can to secure this fund for the Philippines.

Again there are attempts to enact legislation reverting to the Treasury of the United States the proceeds of the excise tax on coconut oil imported from the Philippines. The amount of collections is now around P56,000,000 and is deposited in the United States Treasury. Payment to the Government of the Philippines in accordance with the law has been suspended in view of cases pending in the courts contesting the validity of the law. It is my earnest belief that Congress will not approve the proposed legislation above referred to. Heretofore, whenever the Congress of the United States has taxed goods or products imported into the United States from the Philippines, invariably it has provided the payment of all collections to our Government. It is, therefore, beyond my comprehension that at this stage of our relations with America that record of fair dealing and justice should be reversed. We are also counting upon the help of Commissioner Murphy and other friends in Congress to prevent the enactment of the said law.

Our Foreign Population

I am happy to be able to inform the Assembly that the foreign population of the Islands has, since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, shown a genuine desire to cooperate with our people to make this government a signal success.

Much has been printed in the local and foreign papers regarding the ownership of large tracts of land by Japanese subjects in Davao. There is an impression that Davao is actually owned by the Japanese. Such is not the case.

The total area owned, leased and/or cultivated by the Japanese in Davao is about 60,000 hectares out of almost two million hectares that constitute the total area of the public domain in that province. It is true that Japanese investments in Davao are considerable, and that there are doubts expressed as to the legality of some of the transactions entered into between Filipinos and Japanese regarding the public domain leased to Filipinos by the Government. In these cases the Government will act in accordance with law and equity. Before any course of action is finally decided upon by the Administration, I shall advise with the Assembly and take no step without your previous knowledge. There is nothing in the so-called Davao problem that should cause serious concern.

Peace and Order

The country has never been entirely free from armed bandits or outlaws as it has been during the last four months. At the beginning of the present administration there were two armed bands which had been marauding in the Provinces of Laguna and Tayabas for some time, and there was at large one notorious bandit in the Province of Lanao who for many years had been terrorizing that district with murders and robberies. Two hours after my inauguration as Chief Executive I had a conference with the governors of Laguna and Tayabas and the Chief of Constabulary, and I instructed them to spare no effort in the capture or extermination of these outlaws. Soon thereafter the Lanao bandit having resisted arrest was killed by the Constabulary and within two months every members of the armed bands in Laguna and Tayabas had been either captured or killed. However, there is still the danger of possible sporadic public disturbances like the uprising of the Sakdalistas which took place a year ago last May. Professional demagogues who make their living by exploiting the patriotism of the uninformed or the real or fancied grievances of the discontented, are exciting the masses with incendiary speeches and literature. Communism has also been active during the last few years and while its propaganda has not been particularly effective the forces of law and order have to be constantly on guard. There is not, of course, the slightest danger of any general uprising, but we cannot allow any serious disturbance of the public order to take place. One of the few cases which may give occasion for American intervention is the failure of the Government to preserve order and to protect life, property, and individual liberty. The world is watching this experiment in Filipino self-government, and the confidence and respect which in the future the nations may have in the Philippine Republic will depend in large measure upon our ability to maintain peace and order and to extend effective protection to all the residents of the Islands during the transition period. Knowing as I do the great superiority of the forces of the Government over any misguided group that may be induced to armed revolt, it causes me anguish to think that under my administration the armed forces of the government may be compelled to take such drastic measure as would exact a greater toll of life than during the Sakdalista uprising. From every point of view, therefore, it is better that preventive measures be taken, and it is my earnest hope that the National Assembly will not delay the enactment of appropriate legislation to this end.

Social Justice

While the Government cannot compromise with public disorder, it is equally its duty to right social injustices. That our laborers in the farm as well as in the factories still suffer from long-standing unfair practices, no one can successfully deny. These injustices, however, cannot be remedied by merely applying here legislation in force in other countries. For such legislation would not take into account local conditions, nor the incipient stage of our industrial life and the almost primitive state of our agriculture. Government administration is a practical question and statesmanship consists in the wise application of sound doctrines bearing in mind the actual conditions that have to be met with in each case. Even the most up-to-date progressive labor legislation, if not in keeping with the prevailing conditions here, may easily upset our existing industries, preventing the establishment of new ones, and retard the advance of our agriculture. I, therefore, advocate a policy of progressive conservatism based upon the recognition of the essential and fundamental rights of labor.

The Philippine Legislature has in the past enacted several measures for the protection of labor, but while they have improved somewhat the lot of the workingman to the extent that the Filipino laborer enjoys more rights and privileges than his brother in other Oriental countries, it is necessary that we should go further and give better and more effective protection to the rights and interests of our wage-earners. I would, therefore, urge the enactment of a law authorizing the creation of boards of arbitration to settle questions of labor, minimum wages, working conditions, and other matters affecting their relations.

With the passage of the Tenancy Law, it was believed that the relationship between the landowner and tenant could be maintained on a fair and satisfactory basis. Although the legislation has been in the statute book for several years, I do not know of a single locality which has put it into effect, as its enforcement in any province was made dependent on an affirmative resolution of the majority of the municipal councils of that province. There is now more discontent and social unrest among the farm laborers than among the industrial workers. I believe this situation will be materially improved by the enactment of the Arbitration Board Law to which I have referred.

The large landed estates or “haciendas” offer a different problem. This administration, by the Coalition platform, is committed to the policy favoring the acquisition of these estates at a fair and just price, so they may be sold in small lots to the tenants. I regret to state that after a careful study of this question, I have reached the conclusion that such a step would not remedy the situation nor could it be carried out without exposing the country to great financial losses.

Immediately after assuming office, I instructed the Department of Labor and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to give me the necessary information so that I might recommend to the National Assembly at this regular session the purchase of these landed estates or “haciendas” and their subsequent sale to the tenants. Both Secretaries of said Departments have personally investigated some of the outstanding controversies between some of the “haciendas” and their tenants, and I have also taken part in one of those investigations. I have likewise studied the effects of the purchase of the so-called friar lands.

It is now my earnest conviction that the purchase of these “haciendas” by the Government will not solve the agrarian and social problems existing therein, but will only transfer to the Government the difficulties which the tenants now have with the present landowners.

The friar lands were acquired by the Government for the purpose of reselling them in small parcels to the men who were working on these lands; but, for several causes, the result has been that a large area of these “haciendas” is now in the hands of other people. The lot of the former tillers of these lands has not in the least improved. The investment, therefore, of several millions of pesos by the Government in the purchase of the friar lands has only been, with few exceptions, for the benefit of people not contemplated by the Government. The latest report I have is that in this transaction the Government lost heavily. If the Philippine Government lost then when the price paid for the friar lands was relatively low, it is evident that now, that the price asked for these “haciendas” is very much higher, the Government is bound to suffer a greater loss. There might be some justification in exposing the country to this financial loss if, through such purchase, the majority of the people working on them were to become the owners of the land which they are now cultivating. I am positive, however, that such will not be the case, any more than it was in the case of the friar lands, and I, for one, despite the commitment in the Coalition platform, do not wish to impose upon our people the burden of a national debt which our children will have to bear merely to give a few individuals the opportunity to acquire these particular areas at the expense of the people when there is so much available fertile and untouched public land in many regions of our country, particularly in Mindanao.

I realize the difficulty of convincing the men and their families who are now living in these “haciendas” to move out from their places of birth in order to settle in other provinces or islands, knowing as I do the attachment of the Filipino to his hometown. We must encourage our people to have a national outlook so that they may feel at home in whatever corner of the Philippines they may find themselves. We thus have an opportunity to induce the settlement of our sparsely populated areas by the tenants of these “haciendas,” and the money that the Government would surely lose with their purchase could be invested to better advantage in the construction of roads and improvement of health conditions in said uninhabited but rich sections of the Philippines.

In the meantime, I recommend the adoption of measures similar to those which were adopted in Ireland to solve agrarian problems there which have been existing from time immemorial. I also recommend the immediate passage of a law authorizing the expropriation of those portions of the large “haciendas” which are urban in character and are occupied by the houses of the tenants. With the opportunity to own their own homes thus assured, the settlement of the present difficulties of the tenants relative to their farm lands might no longer be of urgent necessity.

Previous Legislative Enactments

In your inaugural session, which lasted barely thirty days, you enacted the most important legislation pledged in the Coalition platform and urgently required by the nature of the new responsibilities of the present government. The record you have made has earned for you just commendation and constitutes the main reason for the prevailing confidence in our future. I now beg leave to report what has been done by Executive in compliance with your legislative enactments.

National Defense –Conscious of the fact that the prime duty of every government is to provide for national defense, the first measure you have enacted is the “National Defense Act” (Commonwealth Act No. 1).

This Act provides for the reorganization of a defensive system composed of the Regular Force and a trained citizen army, and contemplates a yearly appropriation of P16,000,000 for ten years, at the end of which the nation will be placed in a position of serene dignity amongst the powers of the world.

A comprehensive report of the steps taken in pursuance of the provisions of the National Defense Act has been submitted to be by the Military Adviser and it will be my pleasure to transmit it to you in a separate message. Suffice it for me to say now that the response of the country to the call of the Assembly has exceeded our fondest expectations. The number of Filipinos who enrolled on the date fixed for registration in accordance with the provisions of the National Defense Act was greatly in excess of what had been anticipated; in fact it was almost double our estimates. The school teachers who were given instructions in training camps to equip them with the knowledge necessary to carry out the work assigned to them in the schools under the provisions of the National Defense Act, conducted themselves so well and their training was so successful that they deserve from me a well-merited public recognition. It has been plainly demonstrated that our people are ready for the supreme sacrifice in defense of their motherland and their liberty.

I order to expedite the organization of the new Army, I made ad interim appointments to the positions of Chief and Deputy Chief of Staff, the Provost Marshal, and other high ranking officers. These appointments were made after a careful and impartial study of the record of every man and were made upon the recommendation of the Military Adviser of this Government.

No one better than I knows how essential it is to entirely disassociate the Army from politics and, as scrupulously in the rank and file as in the high command, to make merit as the one and only basis of promotion. The Army is a double-edged sword. It is the arm of the Government which is the last resort for the enforcement of the laws and so compel obedience to constituted authority, for the maintenance of peace and order, and for the defense of the national integrity and liberty. But as contemporary history proves to us, the army can also be a disturber of peace and the enemy of law and established government, and in many instances it has been the instrument for the overthrow of constitutional regime. In building up our national defense, and in organizing the regular armed forces of the Islands, these tragic lessons of history must be constantly borne in mind, and it behooves us, who are for the time being entrusted with the responsibility of leadership over our nation, to be forever watchful and vigilant lest we sow the seeds of a possible future misuse of our armed forces. A just and fair treatment for the Army and its rank and file, the upholding of civil authority over the military, insistence upon strict discipline within the organization, non-interference by outsiders, political or otherwise, and a rigid prohibition against the use of the organization or its members for political purposes –these are the basic principles that must be faithfully adhered to in order to make the Philippine Army the safeguard of our liberties and constitutional government, as well as the bulwark of our national integrity and independence.

During the brief period that I have been at the head of the Government, I have inspected most of the garrisons of the Philippine Army and Constabulary. I know and have known for years many of the officers of the organization and have had intimate relations with the high command. The discipline, the gentlemanly conduct, the devotion to duty, the patriotism and courage of the officers and men make me feel proud as a Filipino and as the Commander-in-Chief of these armed forces of the Commonwealth.

The National Economic Council—Another important legislation which you passed in your inaugural session is that which creates the National Economic Council to advise the Government on economic and financial questions, including the improvement and promotion of industries, diversification of crops and production, tariffs, taxation, and such other matters as may from time to time be submitted so its consideration by the President, and to formulate an economic program based on national independence.

In accordance with the provisions of said Act, I have appointed the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philippine National Bank, the President of the National Development Company, the President of the Manila Railroad Company, Mr. Joaquin M. Elizalde, Hon. R.J. Fernandez, Mr. Wenceslao Trinidad, Mr. Vicente Madrigal, Hon. Francisco Varona, Mr. Ramon Soriano, Hon. Vicente Singson Encarnacion, Hon. Rafael R. Alunan and Dr. Manuel L. Roxas, as members of the National Economic Council and designated as Chairman thereof the Secretary of Finance. The Council was organized on February 14, 1936, and it commenced to function immediately thereafter.

As may be expected, considering the complex and highly technical character of the task entrusted to it, the National Economic Council has not so far submitted to the Government any economic program, nor has the Government sought the advice of the Council except on one question: namely, the advisability of creating the National Rice and Corn Corporation for the purpose of bringing about the stabilization of the price of rice, the most important staple food of our people, by protecting equally the producer and the consumer, and also to serve as an agency of the Government to meet local or national emergencies in cases of shortage of rice. It should be stated in all candor that it was only after a long debate inspired by honest differences of opinion that the National Economic Council gave its approval to this venture. Despite certain doubts expressed by some members of the Council, however, I am confident that the National Rice and Corn Corporation will ultimately solve the rice problem, one of the most serious national problems which for years has been confronting our country and which demanded immediate attention on account of its very serious implications.

The situation may be summarized as follows: The main food supply of the Filipinos, like that of most Orientals, is rice. For many years the country did not produce a sufficient quantity of rice for its consumption and the Government deemed it necessary even to borrow money for the purpose of establishing irrigation systems in order that the country may be self-sufficient in rice supply. Our yearly importation of this article amounted to many millions of pesos, reaching over P25,000,000 in one year. During the last two years we were able to produce practically all the rice needed for our consumption. But no sooner did we reach this stage than the price of rice went down, in fact so low that the rice farmer not only made no profit, but actually suffered considerable losses. As a consequence, there has been a growing discontent on the part of the rice growers, especially the tenants or *kasamas*, who are earning less than is required for the bare necessities of life. On the other hand, whenever, due to typhoons, drought, or floods there was a shortage of rice and prices reached high levels, either through the manipulations of a few conscienceless rice merchants or merely because of scarcity of supply, the consumer, especially the poor, became a victim of speculative activities. To save them the Government had to intervene and take drastic measures at times in order to alleviate the crisis.

In spite of such a situation nothing has been attempted so far to remedy it, and this Administration felt that it was its duty, especially in view of the shortage of the last crop due to repeated typhoons and floods, to face the issue immediately and strive to solve the problem once and for all.

It is only natural that there should be some doubt or fear, and even resentment from some quarters, over the action of the Government; hence criticisms are being made in public and in private, and those who expected to make unreasonable profits from the rice crisis and were foiled in their anticipations, went so far as to see dishonest purposes in the creation of the Rice and Corn Corporation. All such doubts and criticisms, whether honest or

malicious, did not deter the Administration from carrying out the plan that has been adopted, especially because no alternative had been suggested.

To meet the national emergency caused by the shortage of rice, I have designated the National Rice and Corn Corporation to act as the relief agency for the Government in place of the Bureau of Commerce which was in charge of this activity in the past. When the corporation started importing rice, the Collector of Customs, believing that the rice so imported must pay duties in view of the fact that it was being sold at some profit, informed the Secretary of Finance of his intention to collect such duties, and in fact did demand payment thereof by the Rice and Corn Corporation. After securing the legal opinion of the Secretary of Justice, I advised the Collector of Customs to desist from collecting any duties from the Rice and Corn Corporation on the rice imported so long as it was acting as the agent of the Government in meeting the emergency resulting from the rice shortage.

Heretofore, Government agencies disagreeing on the interpretation of the laws affecting their powers and rights, have been allowed to bring the case before the courts for adjudication. Such a policy, I think, is wrong, and in fact in one instance it has merited the criticism of our own Supreme Court. It makes both government agencies incur in unjustified expense and unnecessarily take up the time of the courts. Considered in its practical aspect, it only means taking money from one agency of the Government and giving it to another. If it had been a question of the Government on the one hand as against a purely private enterprise on the other, then it would have been not only proper but also necessary for the courts to have intervened.

The Court of Appeals—Commonwealth Act No. 3, enacted also during the inaugural session of the Assembly, created the Court of Appeals in order to expedite and improve the administration of justice.

In accordance with the provisions of said Act, I appointed the members of the Court who forthwith proceeded with its organization. These appointments were made after full information and careful consideration, with an eye single to the best interests of the administration of justice.

As soon as funds are available for the purpose, I shall recommend to the Assembly that the necessary appropriation be made for the creation of another division of the Court of Appeals to sit in one of the southern provinces and to authorize the various divisions of the Court of Appeals to sit in any of the provinces within their jurisdiction, to hear cases pending before the Court for decision. Such procedure would not only expedite but would also greatly reduce the cost of appeals to litigants, thus making this appellate Court more accessible to the poor.

Manila Railroad Company—A very important measure approved by the National Assembly is Commonwealth Act No. 4 providing funds to be loaned to the Manila Railroad Company for the purchase, before maturity, of certain outstanding bonds of the said Company. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, I directed the Insular Treasurer to loan to the Manila Railroad Company P9,900,000, and authorized the Philippine National Bank to use P3,360,000 of its funds in the purchase of said bonds.

On January 29, 1936, upon payment to the Manila Railway Company (1906) Ltd., through the Chase National Bank, New York City, of the sum of \$6,698,631.41 covering the principal, interest and exchange premium, all of the Souther Lines 4 per cent gold bonds maturing May 1, 1939, held by the English Company, with par value of P16,340,000, were delivered to the order of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, Washington, D.C., acting as representative of the Commonwealth Government and the Manila Railroad Company.

The successful culmination of this exceedingly important transaction resulted in great financial advantages to the direct benefit of the Manila Railroad Company and indirectly of the Commonwealth Government, which is the sole owner of the property. The following estimates indicate in round figures the savings that will be effected between now and the maturity of the bonds:

Total face value of the bonds held by the Manila Railway Company (1906), Ltd.	
Cost at 80 per cent of face value	

Savings in principal	
Less –premium	
Net saving in principal	
Normal 4 per cent annual interest on English Company holdings	P653,600.00
Normal interest for 1936, 1937, 1938 and half of 1939	2,287,600.00
Premium for 3-1/2 years at P441,180 each year	1,544,130.00—————
Total	
Less-	
2% on P13,350,000 for 3-1/2 years	
Total savings in principal and interest	

The above savings on the English Company holdings are based on the principal of the bonds being redeemed at maturity at their face value. However, both the principal and interest are subject, at the holders' option, to payment in certain European currencies at the former gold equivalent, and if this option should be exercised covering the principal at the time of maturity, the amount necessary to redeem the bonds being held by the English Company would, on the present basis of exchange, represent a total sum of approximately P27,287,800. The purchase of these new bonds at this time for the sum of P13,072,000, therefore, means a saving in interest and principal of about P14,200,000 besides a savings in interest and premium amounting to about P2,900,000 after allowing for the two per cent interest on the loan from the Government, or a total saving of about P17,100,000.

The investment of the Government in the Manila Railroad Company including bonded indebtedness of the Company all told amounts to approximately P28,000,000. This is a respectable sum for any Government and doubly so for a Government whose yearly revenue at present is around P78,000,000 and at its highest peak only reached the total of P92,783,173.70.

Bus and truck transportation due to improved roads in the northern and central provinces of Luzon have caused a large decline in the income of the Manila Railroad Company. We cannot afford to allow this situation to continue and permit the Government to suffer tremendous losses in railroad operation, for the time might come when the Government would either be compelled to suspend the operation of the Railway or carry a yearly financial burden that sooner or later would bankrupt the National Treasury.

The Manila Railroad was acquired by the Insular Government in 1917 in order partly to withdraw from foreign hands the control of our most important means of transportation at that time. Soon after the Government assumed the administration of this property, the railroad began paying interest on the bonds from its revenue, and even extended some of its lines with its own resources. Only during the last two or three years has the income of the railroad begun to decline due, as already stated, to bus and truck competition. If it should be found advisable, I am prepared to authorize the Manila Railroad Company to purchase some of these competing bus transportation companies or else to have the Government establish and operate its own bus and truck services. The Constitution expressly authorizes the Government to establish and operate means of transportation and communication, and, upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities held by private individuals to be operated by the Government.

Another step that must be taken at once is the completion of the railroad line to the Bicol provinces. This, I am informed, will make the southern lines a paying enterprise. In pursuance of the authority vested in me by law, I have directed the Secretary of Finance to purchase P3,000,000 worth of stocks of the Manila Railroad to finance the completion of the Aloneros-Ragay line. It is my understanding that to complete the road the Government will have to invest only P700,000 more in addition to the P3,000,000 referred to above.

But this amount will have to be greatly increased if the Manila Railroad Company is not given permission to abandon the Legaspi-Tabaco, Las Pinas-Naic, Rosario-Montalban and Batangas-Bauan lines which are absolutely unnecessary from the point of view of public convenience and which, consequently, are causing an annual loss of about P100,000 to the Railroad Company. Once these lines are abandoned their materials and equipment will be used in the construction of the Aloneros-Ragay line.

I, therefore, earnestly recommend that a law be enacted authorizing the Manila Railroad Company to abandon the lines above mentioned.

Government Survey Board—In accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 5, I appointed Hon. Miguel Unson, as Chairman, and Mr. Wenceslao Trinidad and Mr. Jose Paez, as members of the Government Survey Board on February 14, 1936. The Board has been devoting considerable time to the investigation of the Government bureaus and their activities and to the formulation of a plan whereby the Government may be simplified and made more economical as well as more efficient. The most important recommendation of this Board is the creation of the Budget Office, which I have approved, and in accordance therewith I have appointed the Auditor General and the Director of Civil Service, as members of the Commission and the Honorable Serafin Marabut, former Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the National Assembly, as Undersecretary of Finance and Director of the Budget. The budget which I will soon submit to the Assembly has already been prepared by the Commission and approved by the Cabinet. The only other case in which I have exercised the authority granted me by Commonwealth Act No. 5, also upon the recommendation of the Survey Board, is the transfer of the coastguard and lighthouse service from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to the Bureau of Customs.

At this time the Board is conducting a careful investigation and study of the activities of the Bureau of Lands, General Land Registration Office, Bureaus of Public Works, Science, Animal Industry, Plant Industry and Health, and of the University of the Philippines, with the end in view of avoiding duplication and simplifying procedure. Special attention is being given by the Board to the matter of cadastral surveys, homesteads, a general registration office, a central statistics office, and proper allocation on centralization of laboratories with the purpose of recommending the intensification of industrial researches, so essential to the economic development of our country. Preliminary survey of the provincial and municipal services is likewise under way.

Philippine National Bank—In accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 6, the Philippine National Bank has written up certain assets, heretofore considered as losses, at their actual value. On January 17, 1936, the sum of P3,940,000 was thus written up and paid to the Government, and on May 18, 1936, the sum of P2,944,997 was also written up to be paid to the Government in due course.

National Loan and Investment Board—The National Loan and Investment Board created by Commonwealth Act No. 7 has been constituted by the appointment of Mr. Salvador Lagdameo, as chairman, and of Dr. Luther B. Bewley, Mr. Jose Bernardo, and Mr. Pedro M. Moncayo, as members.

The Board began functioning on February 29, 1936, by adopting measures to organize its office and at the same time granting loans from the different funds placed under its control and administration. Due to the natural delay encountered in making the delimitation of the powers of the National Loan and Investment Board and those of the different boards and offices originally controlling the several investible funds transferred to the former, as well as in transferring the personnel and appointing the necessary new employees, the Board has not as yet been able to completely organize its office and to function as properly as it should. The amount of investible funds, the investment of which has been placed under the administration of the National Loan and Investment Board, aggregates P45,000,000 as of December 31, 1935. The actual transfer of these funds to the National Loan and Investment Board has not yet been completed. It is, however, hoped that such transfer will soon be effected.

It has been found that certain amendments to Commonwealth Act No. 7 are immediately needed in order to clarify some of its provisions.

Construction of Roads in Mindanao—In the exercise of the powers vested in me by Commonwealth Act No. 18, I authorized the expenditure of P820,000 for the completion of the road connecting the Provinces of Lanao, Cotabato and Davao on the Island of Mindanao. As an initial step in the program of giving new impetus to the development of Mindanao, this work will be of incalculable value to the country, since it will not only provide an overland outlet for Davao but will also open to settlement immense unoccupied areas of that island.

The time has come when we should systematically proceed with and bring about the colonization and economic development of Mindanao. A vast and rich territory with its untapped natural resources is a temptation to

enterprising nations that are looking for an outlet for their excess population. While no nation has the right to violate the territorial integrity of another nation, people that lack the energy, ability, or desire to make use of the resources which Divine Providence has placed in their hands, afford an excuse for a more energetic and willful people to deprive them of their lawful heritage. If, therefore, we are resolved to conserve Mindanao for ourselves and our posterity, we must bend all our efforts to occupy and develop it and guard against avarice and greed. Its colonization and development will require no little capital. But every cent spent for this purpose will mean increased national wealth and greater national security. The present income of the government is quite insufficient to even attempt to do more than carry on its present activities. Were there no other reasons for the creation of new sources of revenue, the need of developing Mindanao alone would make it an unavoidable duty for this Assembly, especially those who visited Mindanao recently with me, are conscious, I feel sure, of our grave responsibility to encourage settlement and develop Mindanao. There are provinces in Luzon and the Visayas that are already overpopulated. There are localities in some of those provinces where the people live on large estates without opportunity to earn a livelihood sufficient to meet the necessities of civilized life, much less to own the land wherein they live and which they cultivate. It is inconceivable that such a situation should exist in a country with extensive areas of fertile uncultivated lands. I invite you, therefore, to give this matter preferential consideration.

The so-called Moro problem is a thing of the past. We are giving our Mohammedan brethren the best government they have ever had and we are showing them our devoted interest in their welfare and advancement. In turn they are giving us their full cooperation. Let us reserve for them in their respective localities such land of the public domain as they may need for their well-being. Let us, at the same time, place in the unoccupied lands of that region industrious Filipinos from other provinces of the Archipelago, so that they may live together in perfect harmony and brotherhood.

Public Instruction

In order to comply with the provisions of the Constitution concerning public education I feel it my duty to see to it that a careful study be made of the fundamental problems brought about by the conditions now obtaining so that our educational policies and objectives may be re-defined. Our system of public education must be inspired in Filipino patriotism and consecrated to the formation of citizens of high moral character and civic virtues. It must equip our citizens with social and vocational efficiency not only for their own benefit but also so that they may the better serve the State. We must provide every child of school age the opportunity to receive primary instruction.

So that the Government may be advised as to the best method and the necessary means to carry out the reorganization and proper orientation of our public school system, I have created, by executive order, the Council of Education, composed of professional educators drawn from our own Bureau of Education and the Government University as well as from some of the best accredited private institutions of learning. Dr. Rafael Palma, former President of the University of the Philippines, is at the head of the Council. The members are: Hon. Gabriel Manalac, Dr. Francisco Benitez, Dr. Jorge Bocobo, Dr. Luther Bewley, Hon. Norberto Romualdez, Mrs. Sofia R. de Veyra, Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos, Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Dr. Manuel L. Carreon, and Mr. Segundo Infantado. I hope that during the present sessions some recommendations of the Council may be submitted to you for appropriate action.

Civil Service

During the last especial session I recommended the enactment of legislation that will make our Civil Service Law conform to the provisions of the Constitution. Lack of time prevented you from taking affirmative action on this subject, and I hereby renew my former recommendation.

The National Language

While it is my hope and conviction that the English language will remain one of the most generally spoken languages in the Philippines even after independence, nevertheless, we cannot ignore the injunction of the Constitution that we take steps for the formation of a national language based on one of the existing native languages. It is difficult to determine what practical measures may be adopted at this time to bring this about, but I

wish to lay the problem before you so that you may give it your early and deliberate consideration. Perhaps a committee may be created to study the question and make recommendations.

New Taxes

In view of the new and greater responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the necessity of having at our disposal funds with which to carry out a comprehensive program for the economic development of the country, it will be necessary to create new taxes. The following are some of the tax measures which I recommend for your approval:

1. The amendment of the Income Tax Law by reducing the personal tax exemption and increasing the rate of the tax on excess personal income and of the tax on corporate profits.
2. The amendment of the Inheritance Tax Law by increasing the rate of the tax, particularly in the case of estates of decedents not leaving any forced heirs.
3. The increase of the tax on mines.
4. Taxes on luxuries and amusements.
5. The creation of a school tax in an amount equal to the present cedula tax, which should be abolished.
6. A tax on transportation and travel in an amount sufficient to take care of the maintenance and improvement of roads.
7. A modification of the Land Tax Law, so as to provide for a progressively increasing rate of taxation based upon the area of the landholdings.
8. Modifications of present tax laws to enable the Government to collect taxes more effectively.

The taxes I am recommending place the burden upon shoulders that can well afford to bear them and, if levied, the Commonwealth Government will be able to render our people new services so urgently needed for their welfare and progress. I feel confident that those who are called upon to pay these taxes will not grudge their added contribution to the public weal.

Until the National Assembly enacts the measure above referred to, it will be futile for me to present for your consideration a program of government activities or industrial development which the Government may initiate or help in part, for there will be no means with which to carry it out.

Conclusion

From time to time, during your present session, I shall have occasion to present for your study and consideration matters that, in my opinion, deserve your attention. Meanwhile, may I express the hope that the cordial cooperation which as existed in the last session between the Executive and the Legislative Departments will continue to be keynote of our relations? The success of the Commonwealth will depend upon the ability of the executive and legislative departments to cooperate with each other.

In our day and generation democracy, as an effective system of government, is being challenged. Let this new democracy of ours show to the world that democracy can be as efficient as a dictatorship, without trespassing upon individual liberty and the sacred rights of the people.

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Budget for the Year 1937, June 23, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the Budget for the Year 1937**

[Released on June 23, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In pursuance of section 9, paragraph (1), of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I am submitting herewith for your consideration the budget of receipts and expenditures of the Government of the Commonwealth for the year 1937. The Constitution allows the President fifteen days from the date of the opening of the regular session of the National Assembly within which to submit the budget, and although the opening date of this year's regular session has been advanced thirty days, I have, nevertheless, endeavored to have this budget ready within the first few days of the opening of the session to make possible your early enactment of the General Appropriation Law.

This budget has been prepared by the Budget Commission, the office has newly created by me and to which I referred in my previous message to the National Assembly.

The Chairman of this Commission and Director of the Budget is the Hon. Serafin Marabut, former Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the National Assembly, who has for many years rendered efficient and patriotic service in the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

A new and important duty imposed upon the Budget Office, as created under Executive Order No. 25, is the close and constant supervision over the expenditures made by the different executive departments, bureaus and dependencies of the National Government, and for this purpose, their respective accounting services have been placed under the direct control of the Director of the Budget. In this manner, the expenditure of funds, although authorized by law, if found not actually necessary, may be suspended by the President, thus enabling him to prevent waste and extravagance.

The total regular income for 1937 conservatively estimated is P65,817,400. The revised estimated regular income for the current year is P66,133,900.

The total ordinary expenditures proposed for 1937 amount to P64,767,138, which, compared with the estimated regular income for 1937, leaves a surplus of P1,050,262.

Thus the total ordinary expenditures proposed in the budget is P35,031.50 more than the total ordinary expenditures authorized for 1936. However, the 1937 budget contains increases in appropriations aggregating P1,618,732.15 for improvement and extension of such essential public services as revenue collection, health, social welfare and others; and eliminates and/or reduces certain expenditures authorized for 1936 which have been found either excessive or no longer necessary. The appropriations which have been increased are those affecting Bureaus of Internal Revenue, Customs, and Forestry, which have been unable in the past to collect all the taxes due the Government for lack of adequate personnel, and about P330,500 of said increases is for the care of the insane and the sick and for the free distribution of medicine among the poor.

In addition to the extraordinary expenditure above as referred to, there are extraordinary outlays and investments included in the budget amounting to P1,440,800 which are charged against the accumulated surplus.

There are a number of important changes effected in the present budget, as compared with the last one both as regards the organization of the bureaus and the matters contained in the budget. The reorganizations were effected by executive order in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 5, and they are:

1. The creation of the Budget Commission.
2. The transfer of the Navigation Division from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to the Bureau of Customs.
3. The reorganization of the Bureau of Civil Service.

The creation of the Budget Commission has been discussed in my first message to the Assembly at this regular session; the transfer of the Navigation Division from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to the Bureau of Customs has been done in the interest of economy and efficiency, and the reorganization of the Bureau of Civil Service is in line with and designated to give full force and effect to the provisions contained in Article XI of the Constitution referring to civil service.

Heretofore, the Bureau of Civil service has been ranked among the bureaus of the second class and its functions have been limited to giving civil service examinations, rating of papers and passing upon questions of eligibility of qualified applicants for government positions or the promotion of employees already in the service. I have created a Civil Service Board of Appeals composed of the Auditor General as chairman, and the Solicitor General and the Director of Budget as members, and have raised the position of Director of Civil Service to that of Commissioner of Civil Service with a salary equal to that of an Undersecretary of Department, and his Assistant as Deputy Commissioner with the salary of an Assistant Director of a first-class bureau. Under this reorganization, the Bureau of Civil Service, in addition to its existing duties, will have charge of, and pass upon, all formal investigations against officers and employees of the Civil Service. Experience has demonstrated that sometimes the *esprit de corps* in a given bureau is so strong that complaints presented by private parties against employees of the bureau do not receive due consideration; on the other hand, there are cases where for personal, political or other reasons, employees are not properly protected in their rights. The Bureau of Civil Service, as reorganized, will safeguard equally the rights of the public and of the employees. It will function as an administrative tribunal, acting as independently as the courts of justice. Appeals from the decision of the Commissioner of Civil Service may be taken to the Civil Service Board of Appeals, whose decision will be final.

It will also be noted that the budget for 1937 includes appropriations which are payable from special funds created by the Legislature for certain purposes and which, without further action on the part of the legislative department, are being spent by the executive offices vested by law with their administration. Heretofore, these special funds have not been included in the budget supposedly for the reason that a yearly legislative action on the same was not deemed necessary. I believe, however, that the inclusion of these special funds in the budgetary system more comprehensive and is a forward step towards making the budget the complete financial program of the Government that it should be.

The appropriations for the Bureau of Printing and the Industrial Division of the Bureau of Prisons are being placed on a revolving funds basis. The resulting elasticity in the working capital of each of these two industrial units will enable them, not only to function more economically and efficiently, but also to adjust their operation to the varying requirements of the service.

It is my purpose to recommend, as I do hereby recommend, the repeal of Act No. 3431, otherwise known as the Belo Act, effective on the first of January, 1938.

During these first two years of the life of the Commonwealth, I feel that the President should have at his disposal the amount appropriated by the said Act and should have, in the use of the fund, the latitude given him by the law, so that he may be able to exercise supervision and control, not only over the affairs of the National Government but of the provinces and municipalities as well. These are years of investigation and reorganization of the whole government machinery and the Chief Executive should have all the assistance demanded by the multitude and extent

of the questions that require his immediate attention until general administrative policies and procedures are established. To the Belo Fund I have resorted also to give the Executive Department additional personnel for technical work. Were it not for the above considerations, I would have recommended the immediate repeal of that Act.

I wish also to bring to your attention the marked change in the form of presenting the general comparative statement and the different kinds of expenditures in the budget. In the general comparative statement, the expenditures are segregated into ordinary expenditures, and extra-ordinary expenditures and investments and the allocation of the net surplus is shown in detail. The financial condition of the Government is thus clearly presented. While in the budgets of previous years the permanent appropriations, continuing appropriations, indefinite appropriations and expenditures payable from receipts and revolving funds were scattered in subsidiary statements, in the budget which I am submitting to you, they are conspicuously placed in tabulated form together with the general appropriations. Thus, anyone can see at a glance the amount of funds for expenditure at the disposal of each department of the Government.

At the end of 1935, the net accumulated surplus of the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines was P39,565,495.59. Of this amount and the current surplus of P1,401,793.51 for the year 1936, the sum of P2,937,233.30 was used to cover a portion of the amount appropriated by the former Philippine Legislature for public works; P99,000 for construction of roads in Mindanao; P388,000 for the election of the Commonwealth officials, and P3,301,597.38 for other extraordinary expenses. In its inaugural session, the National Assembly authorized appropriations amounting to P500,000 for various purposes, including outlays for the expenses of the National Economic Council and of the Government Survey Board, extermination of locusts and budrot, and typhoon relief. The Chief Executive, on the other hand, has authorized the investment of P1,000,000 in stock of the National Development Company for use of the National Rice and Corn Corporation in pursuance of the provisions of Act No. 2849, an P300,000 in stock of the Manila Railroad Company for the extension of its southern lines, as authorized under Act No. 3116. As a result of the extraordinary appropriations and investments above mentioned, the accumulated net surplus of the Government of the Commonwealth at the end of 1936 will be P31,490,458.41. With the exception of about P5,000,000, which represents supplies on hand, accounts receivable and other forms of liquid assets, the said accumulated net surplus is all in cash, of which P9,090,458.41 is unencumbered. It is needless to state that, except for some urgent and vital public need, further drain upon the accumulated surplus would not be advisable. Any measure involving the expenditure of public funds should be supplemented by the enactment of laws creating new sources revenue or increasing those already in effect.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Plebiscite on Woman Suffrage, June 24, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Plebiscite on Woman Suffrage**

[Released on June 24, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Article V, section 1, of the Constitution requires that within two years after the adoption of the Constitution a plebiscite be held for the purpose of determining whether there are at least 300,000 women possessing the necessary qualifications who shall vote in favor of granting the right of suffrage to women. If the National Assembly intends to have the elections for provincial and municipal officials take place next year as provided under the existing law, I recommend, in the interest of economy, that the plebiscite above referred to be called for the same date, so that the same officials and electoral colleges may conduct both elections.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on stabilization of pension funds, June 25, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On stabilization of pension funds**

[Released on June 25, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The Philippine Government, although financially sound, is not in a position to withstand the heavy demands that are being made on it to meet accruing liabilities against existing pension systems which have been enacted with unusual liberality, and nothing seems to have been done in an effective way prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth to meet the situation. We have fallen heirs to this situation and while my administration could as well follow the course taken by predecessors, for there is no danger of any imminent or immediate inability of the Government to meet its responsibilities under the said pension laws, I deem it our duty, in the interest of the employees who are paying a part of their salaries to the pension funds, in the confident expectation that they will receive their pensions at the proper time, to solve this difficulty at once, so that the interests of the employees and the Government will be equally protected. In order that you may intelligently pass upon the question, I have created a Committee by Executive Order No. 22 to make a study of the whole matter and make recommendations. The report of the Committee has been submitted to me and I have forthwith sent it to the Chairman of the Committee on Pensions of the National Assembly.

May I respectfully request that during this session of the National Assembly appropriate legislation be enacted to stabilize the present condition of pension funds?

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the holding of plebiscite on Woman Suffrage,
July 6, 1936**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
HOLDING OF PLEBISCITE ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

[July 6, 1936]

Gentlemen:

A delegation of women representing different women organizations has come to me to request that the date for calling of a plebiscite to determine whether woman suffrage will be established in the Philippines be set on the 14th of May, 1937. In view of the fact that, in a previous message to the National Assembly, I recommended that this plebiscite be held on the same date as the general elections, I am referring this petition to you with the statement as far as the Chief Executive is concerned, no objection will be offered to the holding of the plebiscite and of the general elections on different dates. Moreover, in view of the fact that it is evidently the intent of the Constitution to give the women the right to determine whether or not they shall exercise the right of suffrage, it is my opinion that the Assembly would do well to grant this request of the delegation so that the plebiscite may be ordered to take place on the 14th of May, 1937.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on expropriation proceedings in relation to large landed estates, July 6, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**EXPROPRIATION PROCEEDINGS IN RELATION
TO LARGE LANDED ESTATES**

[July 6, 1936]

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution of the Philippines, I beg hereby to certify that there is necessity for the immediate enactment of a law authorizing the President to order the institution of expropriation proceedings or to enter into negotiations for the purpose of acquiring portions of large landed estates which are now used as homesites.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Reforms and Changes in the Organization of the Commonwealth Government, July 6, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**REFORMS AND CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT**

[July 6, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message to the National Assembly, delivered at its opening session on June 16, 1936, I had occasion to report to that Body some reforms that I had made in the organization of the Government in accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 5. Since then and upon recommendation of the Government Survey Board, which was created to make a factual survey of all departments of the public service and submit recommendations with a view to promoting efficiency and economy, several other reforms and changes have been made by me. These reforms and changes have been effected by executive orders within the period of six months as required by law. Copies of all these executive orders, which are listed hereunder, together with the corresponding recommendations of the Government Survey Board, are herewith submitted pursuant to the requirement in section 3 of Commonwealth Act No. 5 that any action taken by the President by virtue of the authority granted him by said Act shall be reported by him to the National Assembly for approval at the next regular session thereof.

1. Executive Order No. 24—Expenditure of seventy-five thousand pesos (P75,000) of the 5 per cent required savings of the Department of Justice.
2. Executive Order No. 25—Creating the Budget Commission.
3. Executive Order No. 34—Transferring the Navigation Division, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, to the Bureau of Customs, Department of Finance.
4. Executive Order No. 39—Reorganizing the Bureau of Civil Service and creating the Civil Service Board of Appeals.
5. Executive Order No. 40—Reorganizing the Bureau of Justice.
6. Executive Order No. 41—Transfer of administrative supervision over the Bureau of Prisons to the Philippine Army.
7. Executive Order No. 42—Transferring executive supervision over offices of provincial, city and municipal treasurers from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Finance. .

8. Executive Order No. 43—Transferring certain functions and duties of the Bureau of Science to other entities under the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

9. Executive Order No. 44—Transferring the collect on of radio registration fees from the Bureau of Posts to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, providing for corresponding adjustments incident thereto and for other purposes.

The Government Survey Board is still in active operation and will continue to make a study and survey of the functions and duties of the other branches of the Government service with a view to avoiding overlapping activities and to simplifying government procedure. As the period within which I am authorized to effect reforms in the Government service by executive orders expired last June 30, bills to embody further needed reforms in the Government organization will be duly submitted from time to time, for the consideration of the National Assembly.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on funds for the Insular Psychopathic Hospital, July 9, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On funds for the Insular Psychopathic Hospital**

[Released on July 9, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the urgent need for making provision for funds for the operating expenses and the improvement of service in the Insular Psychopathic Hospital. Act No. 4157 passed December 1, 1934, appropriated the sum of P280,000 to increase the facilities of the Hospital. The construction of the new wards was finished on December 31, 1935. For the additional operating expenses needed, Act No. 4246 made available the sum of P28,000.

The current appropriation for the Hospital is barely enough for 1,048 patients. Since there are 1,469 inmates whose expenses are charged to the appropriation for the Hospital, the expenses for the care and treatment of 421 inmates cannot be met from the funds available. The total appropriation for the Psychopathic Hospital is practically exhausted and unless additional funds are voted, the services being rendered by the Hospital will have to curtailed.

The care and treatment of the insane is a fundamental duty of the State. Exclusive of the patients already admitted to the Hospital, it is estimated that more than one thousand insane persons are at large in the provinces, many of whom should be confined and given proper care and treatment. The appropriation requested, however, does not include expenses for new inmates but covers only the estimated expenses for those already in the institution.

To take care of the total number of inmates in the institution, it is estimated that an additional sum of P84,989 will be needed. This amount will be used for necessary operating expenses, salaries, wages and subsistence of addition nurses, sundry expenses, the purchase of needed equipment and the improvement of the service in general.

In view of the imperative need of providing an additional appropriation, it is recommended that the National Assembly enact the necessary legislation making sufficient funds available for the maintenance of the services at Insular Psychopathic Hospital until the end of the present year.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on changes in the appropriation for the Bureau of Justice, July 13, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**CHANGES IN THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE
BUREAU OF JUSTICE**

[July 13, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 40, issued on June 25, 1936, reorganizing the Bureau of Justice in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 5, changes were effected in the personnel constituting the legal staff of the said Bureau and a new scale of salaries was adopted. These changes could not be embodied in the budget for 1937 submitted to the National Assembly on June 23, 1936, due to the fact that the above-mentioned executive order issued two days after that date. For the purpose of carrying into effect next year the provisions of the said executive order, it is necessary to amend the budget now under consideration by that Body. With this end in view, I am submitting the accompanying statement which contains the changes to be made of certain items of the appropriation for "Salaries and Wages" requested for the Bureau of Justice: on the contrary, the same will result in a decrease of P432.

In view of the foregoing, I request that this matter be given serious consideration in your deliberations on the General Appropriation Bill for next year.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on filling of vacant positions in the National Assembly, July 13, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**FILLING OF VACANT POSITIONS IN THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

[July 13, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In the interest of good representative government, it is desirable that all districts of the Philippines be represented in the National Assembly. For this purpose, and in order that those assemblymen elected to the vacant positions may take part in the deliberations of the National Assembly during the present session, it is expedient that the elections for the filling of such vacancies be held at the earliest opportunity. Therefore, in pursuance of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation providing for the election of members of the National Assembly to occupy the vacant positions now existing in said Body.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Carriage of Goods by Sea, July 15, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY SEA

[July 15, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am forwarding to you a copy of Public Act No. 521, 74th Congress, entitled "An Act Relating to the Carriage of Goods by Sea," approved on April 16, 1936, to become effective ninety days after the date of its approval. Section 13 of the Act provides that it shall apply to all contracts for carriage of goods by sea to and from the ports of the United States in foreign trade, the term United States to include its territories and possessions, except that, "The Philippine Legislature may by law exclude its application to transportation to or from ports of the Philippine Islands."

Before deciding the question of whether or not the aforesaid law should not apply to transportation to and from Ports of the Philippines in foreign trade, it might be advisable to conduct public hearings wherein representatives of carriers and shippers alike may express their views thereon. As a matter of policy, it is highly advisable that the National Assembly should take advantage of the right given it in said Act, approved by the Congress of the United States, to decide whether or not the provisions thereof regulating the carriage of goods by sea between the Philippines and foreign countries should be given effect here.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 492, July 21, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
One Vetoing Bill No. 492
Extending financial aid to Arnaiz and Calvo Manila-Madrid Fliers**

[Delivered on July 21, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

With much regret I am constrained to return Bill No. 492, of the National Assembly, entitled “Ley que consigna la suma de veinticinco mil pesos para ser entregada como ayuda a los aviadores filipinos Antonio Arnaiz y Juan Calvo por el viaje aéreo que han realizado de Filipinas a España, y para otros fines,” without my signature.

I appreciate the sentiments which prompted the National Assembly to pass this bill, as I share those sentiments myself and, I am sure, the country also. Antonio Arnaiz and Juan Calvo have performed a heroic feat when they dared to make the flight from Manila to Madrid in an airplane lacking the safety devices and comforts of machines that are used in these days for trips of this kind. They have won for themselves the great credit as men of courage and ability, have rendered to aviation in the Philippines a signal service by giving it new impetus and encouragement and have made the world aware of our participation in the conquest of the air. It is then only natural that the whole country should be fired with enthusiasm for this successful flight.

But outstanding as the achievement of these two aviators undoubtedly is, the question we are now confronted with is whether it is proper for the State to set aside any portion of the public funds for the specific purpose of rewarding Messrs. Arnaiz and Calvo. The judgment on the matter depends on the interpretation which should be put upon the meaning of the term public service. It is my belief that, while these two aviators have indeed won honor and glory for their people, they have not performed a task primarily devoted to the public service within the purview of the Constitution and justifying the expenditure of public funds for their just emolument.

If, before making the flight to Madrid, Messrs. Arnaiz and Calvo had come before the National Assembly to ask for the appropriation of P25,000 so that they may be able to secure an airplane and undertake the Manila-Madrid flights, would their request have received the approval of the Assembly? The answer to this question can only be in the negative. If, before the flight had been attempted the nature of the enterprise did not justify the expenditure of public funds, the fact that the flight had actually been made, despite its hazardous nature and no matter how splendidly achieved, could not change its character.

Were the Philippine Treasury in such a buoyant condition as to be amply able to cope with all the requirements of public interest, we might perhaps indulge in acts of generosity; but the condition of the treasury is such that, in order to meet the pressing demands upon it for the welfare and security of our people, we are compelled to raise new taxpayers may ungrudgingly pay these taxes, we must give them every assurance that the revenues of the Government will only be spent to promote the national interests.

We are laying the foundations for a new government, establishing precedents that will likely be followed by our successors. Anything that we do in the way of appropriation, whenever there is doubt as to its wisdom or propriety or as to the requirements of the public interest, the doubt should be resolved against the appropriation.

The worthy enterprise that has been undertaken by our distinguished aviators deserves full support of the community, and I am happy to inform the National Assembly that the proposed appropriation of P25,000 has been oversubscribed by private contributions.

If an official recognition of the service rendered by Arnaiz and Calvo is deserved, as I think it is, the National Assembly may pass an act conferring on them a decoration. For my part it is my intention to give Messrs. Arnaiz and Calvo each a commission in the reserve force of the Philippine Army.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on repeal of the Sweepstakes Law, July 29, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
REPEAL OF THE SWEEPSTAKES LAW

[July 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the Assembly:

I recommend that Act No. 4130 be repealed so that hereafter the holding of sweepstakes in the Philippines will be discontinued. When the holding of sweepstakes for the purpose of aiding the Anti-Tuberculosis Society and other beneficent institutions rendering service to the public was conceived until they shall have had their regular source income, it was hoped that the tickets could be sold not only in the Philippines but also abroad so that this new source of income would not altogether fall upon the shoulders of our people. Experience has demonstrated that because of the kind of horse races that we have in the Philippines and the very poor condition of the race course, no one abroad cares to buy our sweepstakes tickets. Besides, it seems that the holding of sweepstakes has in a way given impetus to the prevalence of games of chance all over the country, and developed a certain inclination on the part of the poor to borrow money with which to buy the sweepstakes tickets in the expectation of winning the prize which, as is logical in most cases, must end not only in disappointment but also in added financial embarrassments.

If the National Assembly is of the opinion that there must be some method of raising funds other than by way of taxation to attend to purely welfare service, I suggest that some other system be adopted with less objectionable features and with some assurance of bringing in funds from outside sources.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Port Works Fund, August 14, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

PORT WORKS FUND

[August 14, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

During the last several years, the Legislature has been authorizing from time to time transfers of amounts from the Port Works Fund to the General Fund as partial reimbursement to the latter for the amounts it has been paying annually for the contribution to the sinking fund and interest on the bonds issued by the National Government for the construction and improvement of ports. The Legislature has thus recognized the fairness of relieving the General Fund from the obligation of paying the indebtedness that the Government has incurred for the benefit of the port works as long as the Port Works Fund is in a position to bear such burden. The increasing demand on the General Fund for meeting the expenses of important public services of the Government on the one hand, and the very satisfactory condition of the Port Works Fund, on the other, make it imperative to definitely adopt the policy of reimbursing the General Fund by the Port Work Fund, not only for the amount it is paying annually for contributions to the sinking fund and interest on the bonds above referred to, but also for the amounts previously paid for the same purposes, the latter to be paid in reasonable amounts of annual installments. It should be stated in this connection that in estimating the revenues that are provided in the budget for 1937, an item of P531, 000 from this source has been included under Earnings and Other Credits.

I wish also to present to your consideration the advisability of authorizing the use of the Port Works Fund for the expenses of construction and maintenance of lighthouses and other aids to navigation. Like ports, lighthouses and other aids to navigation insure the safety of the vessels that carry on the country's commerce, hence the necessity of establishing them in places where dangers to navigation exist, and of keeping those already established constantly in proper condition. Under the present circumstances, the Port Works Fund is in a better position than the General Fund to take care of these expenses. To enable the portion of the Port Works Fund that is set aside by Act No. 3592 for maintenance expenses, to cover the cost of maintaining the lighthouses and other aids to navigation, it is necessary that the percentage of such portion be increased from 40%, as at present, to 50%.

I, therefore, earnestly recommend to you the enactment of a law amending Act No. 3592 in such a way as to enable the accomplishment of the purposes above stated.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Funds for Alterations and Improvements of Government Buildings, August 15, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**FUNDS FOR ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS
OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

[August 15, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the advisability of further amending Act No. 3597 to provide funds for completing the necessary alterations and improvements of National Government buildings incident to the transfer of offices and bureaus as recommended in the report of the Housing Committee appointed by the former Speaker of the House of Representatives and as approved by this Office. The Housing Committee estimated that a total appropriation of P300,000 would be required for alteration and improvement work, but only a partial appropriation of P50,000 was set aside for the purpose by Act No. 4259. This fund has all been expended and the Bureau of Public Works now estimates that the work involved in completing the transfer of offices as authorized will cost P250,000.

The estimated cost of air-conditioning the session hall of the National Assembly, which has been found necessary to improve its acoustic condition is P60,000. Improvements to other office buildings under consideration will cost approximately P40,000, making it advisable to limit the amount of funds that may be allotted from surplus funds appropriated by Act No. 3597, as amended, at P350,000 for the alterations and improvements of existing buildings.

It is also proposed to further amend Act No. 3597 so as to authorize the allotment of not more than P1,200,000 for the construction of the proposed Customs building on Port Area, Manila, the foundations of which have already been laid at a cost of nearly P300,000 with funds appropriated by Act No. 2786. The completion of this building is urgent not only on account of the funds already invested but also because the Bureau of Customs is handicapped by its inadequate and inappropriate quarters. Furthermore, with the transfer of the Bureau of Customs to the new building, its present quarters will be made available for more appropriate use.

Further alterations and improvements to government edifices as proposed, and the completion of the Customs building will enable the housing of all offices of the Government on its own premises and thus avoid the rental of privately-owned quarters. It will then be unnecessary to undertake the construction of the proposed capitol group of buildings for some years or until such time as the Government's finances warrant the large investment required. For these reasons, it is believed that the setting aside of a limited amount of funds from Act No. 3597, as amended, to carry out the provisional housing plan without touching the unappropriated surplus in the National Treasury is justified. The completion of the transfer of offices will also make possible the consolidation and coordination of government activities for the greater efficiency of the service.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on turning to the Philippine Postal Savings Bank Money which should escheat to the Government, August 31, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**TURNING TO THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK
MONEY WHICH SHOULD ESCHATE TO THE
GOVERNMENT**

[August 31, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In 1932, the Philippine Legislature passed Act No. 3936 providing for the escheat to the National Treasury of all unclaimed balances appearing in the books of banks in favor of depositors unheard from for a period of ten years or more. In pursuance of the provisions of said Act, the Solicitor General instituted in the City of Manila, among other proceedings, one for the escheat of all unclaimed deposits in the Philippine Postal Savings Bank, which action was registered as Civil Case No. 47549 of the Court of First Instance of Manila. The required publication and service of summons were made and the expenditures for such publication and service of summons amounting to P34,605.09 were paid by the Insular Treasurer, subject to reimbursement from the unclaimed deposits which would have escheated in accordance with the pending hearing, the Legislature passed Act. While this case was pending hearing, the Legislature Passed Act No. 4260 providing for the escheat of all unclaimed deposits in the Philippine Postal Savings Bank in favor of said Bank, instead of the National Treasury. Section 2 of Act No. 4260 also annulled all proceedings, judicial or otherwise, involving the disposition of unclaimed deposits in the Philippine Postal Savings Bank, commenced under the provisions of Act No. 3936, except where a final judgment thereon had already been rendered by a competent court. In view thereof, Civil Case No. 47549 of the Court of First Instance of Manila was shelved or filed, so that no funds have escheated either to the Postal Savings Bank or to the Government of the Philippines, from which the Insular Treasurer can be reimbursed, and new proceedings will have to be instituted to have those unclaimed deposits escheated to the Postal Savings Bank. These new proceedings will involve a further expenditure of about P30,000 for republication of the list of unclaimed accounts and a new service of summons.

In order to avoid incurring such further expenditure, and to the end that the Insular Treasurer may be duly reimbursed, I hereby recommend that legislation be enacted so as to repeal section 2 of Act No. 4260 and at the same time to revive Civil Case No. 47549 of the Court of First Instance of Manila, with direction that the money which would escheat to the Government should be turned over to the Philippine Postal Savings Bank, with deductions made for the expenses incident to the proceedings in the aforesaid Civil Case No. 47549.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Reduction of Membership in the District Board of the Metropolitan Water District, September 2, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REDUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE DISTRICT BOARD
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT**

[September 2, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to invite your attention to the necessity of effecting some change in the composition of the District Board of the Metropolitan Water District for the purpose of achieving efficiency in that branch of the service. At present the District Board is composed of nine members, seven *ex officio* and two appointed by the Chief Executive without any fixed term of office. The *ex officio* members serve on the Board as long as they hold the principal offices to which they have been respectively appointed and may be replaced only when they resign or are removed therefrom. The present arrangement has not worked out as advantageously as expected in view of the fact that the *ex officio* members hold office without regard to their personal qualifications and special fitness for the work entrusted to them as members of the District Board. Moreover, they attend to so many functions and activities pertaining to their respective principal positions in the Government that sometimes they find no time to give the necessary attention to many important matters submitted to the District Board that demand thorough study and consideration.

In order to obviate this difficulty, it is believed advisable that legislation be enacted to reduce the membership of the Board from nine to seven, retaining the Secretary of Public Works and Communications and the City Mayor as *ex officio* members, to be Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, and making the remaining five members appointive for a term of three years. This proposed change will enable the Chief Executive to select men who are eminently fitted to perform the duties of members of the District Board.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Additional Appropriation for Salaries and Wages of Employees and Laborers, September 2, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR SALARIES AND WAGES
OF EMPLOYEES AND LABORERS**

[September 2, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

After a careful study of the prevailing living conditions of the laboring elements of our people in the different parts of the Archipelago, the fact has been impressed upon me that they are not being given wages that would enable them to adequately meet the bare necessities of life. To this state of affairs may be attributed, to a great extent the present unsatisfactory living conditions of many of our people, who, due to the lack of sufficient means to nourish themselves, are easily susceptible to the ravages of diseases. In order to lead the movement to give our working classes a living wage, I issued Executive Orders Nos. 49 and 50 on August 19 and 24, 1936, respectively, copies of which are hereto attached, fixing the minimum daily wages to be paid to able-bodied common laborers employed by, or under the direct supervision of the different branches of the National Government, and also the minimum salary for employees of the Government, unless otherwise specifically provided by law.

I wish, however, to invite your attention to the fact that while the benefits of the said executive orders will immediately be received by the common laborers and low-salaried employees whose wages and salaries are being paid from lump sum appropriations or directly from appropriations for public works projects, the same cannot be extended to those whose positions are specified in the Appropriation Act or other Acts until the increases are authorized and the necessary additional appropriation is set aside. In the current Appropriation Act, there are 4,500 positions of employees whose salaries are less than P30 per month each, and 552 positions of common laborers whose daily wages are lower than P1.10 per day, the minimum rate fixed for common laborers working in the City of Manila. To extend the benefits of the two executive orders above mentioned to these poorly-paid public servants, an additional appropriation of P98,966 from the general fund will be required for salaries and wages from September 1 to December 31, 1936, besides the amount of P28,847 corresponding to increases in salaries and wages for positions pertaining to revolving, reimbursable and other funds. The additional appropriation will not involve an additional outlay of government funds as the former amount may be taken from the savings of the different departments, bureaus, and offices from their appropriations for the current year, while the latter is chargeable to the respective receipts or surpluses of the funds concerned. In order, therefore, to enable all the common laborers and low-salaried employees of the National Government to enjoy the benefits of the executive orders above referred to, I hereby recommend that appropriate legislation to that effect to be enacted as soon as possible.

This message should be considered as amending the budget for 1937 in so far as the provisions of the above-mentioned executive orders affect the positions for common laborers and low-salaried employees specified therein and I also hereby recommend that the corresponding changes be embodied in the Appropriation Bill for 1937.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the report of Hon. Quintin Paredes for the period from February 13, 1936 to June 20, 1936, September 9, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the Report of Hon. Quintin Paredes for the period from February 13, 1936 to June 20, 1936**

[Released on September 9, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information the report of the Honorable Quintin Paredes, Resident Commissioner to the United States, for the period from February 13, 1936, the date when he assumed office as Member of the House of Representatives, to June 20, 1936, the date when the second session of the Seventy-fourth Congress adjourned. The report is in the form of a resume of the activities of Resident Commissioner Paredes, covering legislation affecting the Philippines, the court Cases, certain administrative matters, the difficulties encountered, and his recommendations. The numerous appendices mentioned in the report have not been included herein due to their big volume, but I shall be glad to send them at your request.

I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to express publicly my appreciation of the services rendered by Commissioner Paredes. He has been as faithful to the trust confided to him as he has been highly competent to meet the demands of the great office he holds.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on creation of additional scholarships in Arts, Sciences, and Letters in 1937, September 14, 1935

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**CREATION OF ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN ARTS,
SCIENCES, AND LETTERS IN 1937**

[September 14, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In view of the provision of the last sentence of section 5 of Article XIII of the Constitution of the Philippines, it is my desire to create next year additional scholarships in arts, sciences, and letters for specially-gifted citizens, in addition to those already existing. For this purpose, I hereby amend the budget for 1937 by transferring Item IV-2 (page 131) from the Department of the Interior to the Office of the President, here to appear as one of the items under "Special Appropriations" as follows:

"For scholarships in the United States, in foreign countries or in the Philippines in arts, sciences, and letters for specially-gifted citizens, including one to specialize in actuarial science, one in coast and geodetic survey, one in psychiatry, and in one in fisheries—P28,000.00."

I, therefore, recommend that the Appropriation Bill for 1937 be also amended accordingly.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Offer to the Philippine Government of Philippine Railway Company Sinking Fund Bonds, September 14, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE

**OFFER TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF PHILIPPINE
RAILWAY COMPANY SINKING FUND BONDS**

[September 14, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration a written offer received from the Philippine Railway Company to sell to the Philippine Government, under certain conditions, a certain amount of First Mortgage 4 per cent 30-Year Sinking Fund Bonds of the said Company as well as certain portion of its capital stock issued and outstanding which, under arrangement with the bondholders and stockholders, may be deposited with the Company prior to December 21, 1936, or at such earlier date as be designated for the delivery and payment of said stock bonds.

The price asked for the bonds is \$350 for each bond having a face value of \$1,000, exclusive however, of the interest coupons payable up to and including July 1, 1937; the price asked for the stock is \$1 per share, having par value of \$100 each.

Under the last cable received from the Philippine Railway Company, there have been deposited at close of business on August 31, 1936, subject to the terms of the offer, bonds having a face value of \$4,033,000 and 42,061 shares of stock.

For your information, there are enclosed herewith comparative balance sheets of the Philippine Railway Company for the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935, as well as the profit and loss statements corresponding to the same period.

While in the past, I was favorably inclined to recommend the purchase of these stock and bonds from the proceeds of the oil excise tax refunds and the reimbursement authorized by Congress as a result of the devaluation of the United States dollar, with the improbability of receiving these amounts in the near future, it is believed that the purchase of these stock and bonds at this time will result in a financial burden which might seriously affect the ability of the Government to meet its more important and pressing obligations.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on disposal of excess sugar, September 15, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On disposal of excess sugar**

[Delivered on September 15, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act to amend sections fifteen and nineteen of Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and sixty-six, and for other purposes.”

Act No. 4166, commonly known as the Sugar Limitation Law, approved on December 4, 1934, declared a state of national emergency, to exist in view of the limitation imposed by an Act of Congress upon the exportation of Philippine sugar to the United States, and in view of the overproduction and huge surplus of unmarketable sugar in the Philippines. Section 19 of the Act provides that the Act is to remain in force for three (3) crop years commencing with the 1934-1935 crop, unless the (Governor-General) President determine that the state of emergency declared in the same had ceased. The effects of the Act end with the 1936-1937 crop. The state of national emergency declared in Act No. 4166 continues to exist, in view not only of the limitation imposed by the Costigan-Jones Act, but also of the possible application of the limitations contained in the Tydings-McDuffie Law. It is likewise believed that a lifting of the restriction upon the growing of sugar cane and the production of sugar for domestic consumption would cause such an over-production of this commodity as to result in a huge surplus of unmarketable sugar here with the consequent reduction in price, to the great disturbance of the national economy. Therefore, the effects of Act No. 4166 should be extended for another three years.

Section 15 of Act No. 4166 provides for the licensing of mill companies or refining plants manufacturing centrifugal or refined sugar, and limits the amount which such Plants or companies may mill in any given year. For the violation of their milling license, the law imposes a penalty of a fine of P50 for each short ton so manufactured, and orders that “such sugar shall be seized and forthwith destroyed.”

I believe that the seizure and destruction of such excess sugar is a great economic waste, considering that such sugar may profitably be devoted to other useful purposes not inconsistent with the policy contained in the Act. I, therefore, recommend that the President of the Philippines be Authorized to dispose of sugar in a manner not inconsistent with such policy.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the approval of the attached bill is earnestly urged upon the Assembly.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on appropriation for the maintenance and operation of Welfareville Institution in 1937, September 15, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On appropriation for the maintenance and operation of Welfareville Institution in 1937**

[Delivered on September 15, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to invite your attention to the necessity of setting aside appropriation for the maintenance and operation in 1937 of the institution established in Welfareville under Act No. 4209, for the care of babies and children below two years of age, negative of leprosy, who have been transferred from Culion as no provision for this expense has been made in the budget for 1937.

The above-mentioned Act authorized an appropriation of P32,000 for the maintenance and operation of the said institution from September 1, 1935, to December 31, 1936, or on a yearly basis of P24,000. For the information of that Body, I am inclosing herewith a statement which shows the manner in which the said appropriation has been used and its present status.

The service rendered by the institution has greatly benefitted the unfortunate babies and children above referred to, and the need for its continuance is self-evident. Basing upon the expenses of said institution during the first six months of this year, I hereby recommend the enactment of a law appropriating P21,000 for its operation and maintenance during the year 1937, to be spent as follows:

SALARIES AND WAGES

With subsistence and quarters

One physician	
One head nurse	
Two nurses, at P720 per annum each	
One clerk	
Temporary and emergency employees and laborers	
Total for salaries and wages	

SUNDRY EXPENSES

Postal, telegraph, telephone and cable service	
Illumination and power service	
Consumption of supplies and materials	
Other services	
Traveling expenses of persons not government employees	

Total for sundry expenses	
Grand total	

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon on consideration of recommendations in the report of Commissioner Paredes,
September 16, 1936**

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On consideration of recommendations in the report of Commissioner Paredes**

[Delivered on September 16, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with the report of the Honorable Quintin Paredes, Resident Commissioner to the United States, which I have forwarded to you with my letter of September 9, 1936, I have the honor to request that careful consideration to be given to the various recommendations submitted in said report particularly that which refers to the consolidation of the various activities of the Commonwealth in the United States into one office. After studying carefully the problems mentioned in said report, I have come to the conclusion that all these activities should be placed under the direct control and supervision of the Resident Commissioner, and, for this purpose, that office should be provided with the necessary technical and other assistance to facilitate the carrying out of all these activities.

I am, therefore, submitting for your consideration a consolidated budget for the office of the Resident Commissioner in substitution for the items appearing on page 68 of the budget for 1937. The appropriation heretofore placed under the Department of Agriculture and Commerce for the salaries and sundry expenses for the office of the Trade Commissioner is being transferred to the office of the Resident Commissioner in this consolidated budget, thus permitting the elimination of item 27 of the "Special Appropriations" under the Department of Agriculture and Commerce appearing on page 347 of the budget for 1937. The consolidated budget calls for an additional outlay of only P39,600 over and above the corresponding appropriations provided in the general budget now under consideration by the Assembly.

I need not emphasize the necessity of this added appropriation since the Assembly can very well judge from the report itself that only by providing the Resident Commissioner with the necessary personnel and other assistance may we expect positive accomplishments beneficial to the interests of our people.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on remission of uncollectible accounts due to the Government, September 23, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On remission of uncollectible accounts due to the Government**

[Released on September 23, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The Auditor General has reported to me that there are certain uncollectible accounts due to the Government, amounting all in all to P803,842.62. The carrying of these old accounts from year to year in the books as part of the assets of the Government is not in consonance with good accounting principles and practice. All means employed towards their collection have proved in vain, either because the debtors concerned are apparently insolvent or because the accounts themselves are of doubtful legality. I am attaching hereto a list of these uncollectible accounts together with detailed explanation why remission thereof is considered necessary. As the amount of the uncollectible accounts is included in the so-called "continuing assets" forming part of the accumulated surplus of the general fund of the National Government, it is believed that the accounts in question should be written off as soon as possible in order that the books may be made to show the actual condition of the said fund.

Under the provisions of section 651 of the Revised Administrative Code, the Auditor General may, with the approval of the President of the Philippines, compromise or release any claim or settle liability due to the Government not exceeding P2,000. As the accounts sought to be eliminated from the books of the Government involve amounts exceeding P2,000, the executive department is not authorized by the present law to act on the matter, for which reason it is necessary that special legislation be enacted by the National Assembly to authorize such remission as may be deemed warranted by the circumstances in each instance.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Message of President Quezon on increase of total estimated regular income for 1936 to P71,737,000,
September 28, 1936**

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On increase of total estimated regular income for 1936 to P71,737,000**

[Delivered on September 28, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit to you herewith, for your information, a statement showing the revenue collections actually realized from January 1, to August 31, 1936, as compared with the estimated income for the same period, based on the revised estimates of income for this year as specified in the budget for 1937. The figures shown this statement have been taken from a report submitted to me by the Secretary of Finance.

As can be seen from the said statement, the total revenue collections realized from January 1 to August 31, 1936, have reached the amount of P49,926,496.98. Of the total income of P66,133,900 previously estimated for the entire year, P44,322,801 corresponds to the period from January 1 to August 31. There is, therefore, an excess collection of P5,603,695.98 over the estimated income for the said period. As during the remaining period of the year, there is no reason to suppose that the estimated income, as submitted in the budget, will not be collected, but, on the contrary, will probably be exceeded in more or less the same proportion, I hereby increase the total estimated regular income for 1936 to P71,737,000.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on allotment of portion of Cedula Tax Proceeds for school purposes, September 28, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**ALLOTMENT OF PORTION OF CEDULA TAX PROCEEDS
FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES**

[September 28, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a measure which would make available for school purposes that portion of the proceeds of the cedula tax which now accrues to the road and bridge fund or to the road and public works fund of the provinces. Such a measure would provide additional funds so badly needed for the support of public elementary education. Based on collections made in the past, it is estimated that about two million pesos will be made available annually for educational purposes from this source.

As the National Assembly is aware, for several years past the former Legislatures were obliged to pass emergency appropriations to aid the municipalities in the expenses needed to keep open the schools that had then been in operation. It is the duty of this Government under the Constitution to do more than that. We cannot deny children of school age who apply for admission in the public schools the opportunity to receive primary instruction. It becomes, therefore, our duty under the Constitution to provide new sources of revenue for school purposes. The measure herein recommended has this object.

Since the approval of this bill would divert about two million pesos from the road and bridge funds of the provinces, it is important that this loss of revenue be replaced. The maintenance and development of our system of communications is likewise vitally connected with our national progress. I, therefore, also recommend that in order to replace the revenue to be diverted from roads, the tax on gasoline be increased by 25 per cent and the fees for the registration of motor vehicles increased by approximately 50 per cent and that 20 per cent of these special road funds be credited to the road and bridge funds of the different provinces.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on need for an Emergency Appropriation for keeping open elementary schools and classes, September 29, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On need for an Emergency Appropriation for keeping open elementary schools and classes**

[Delivered on September 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to invite your attention to the need for an emergency appropriation for the Bureau of Education to keep all elementary schools and classes in operation this year. Before the opening of schools last June, it became evident that it would not be possible to reopen 6,748 elementary classes due to a shortage of school funds in the different municipalities. I was formed that the total sum needed for the reopening of the said classes and for their maintenance until December 31, 1936, amounted to P2,261,577.80. Although only P1,200,000 was available for distribution as emergency insular aid for elementary classes under Item L-IV-30 of Act No. 4231, I gave instructions to the school authorities to reopen and continue all such classes in order that the children enrolled therein might not be deprived of educational opportunity during this school year.

The Department of Public Instruction asks for an outlay of P1,061,577 to cover the balance of the amount needed for the maintenance of elementary classes until December 31, 1936. Inasmuch as the appropriation requested is needed to keep open the elementary classes in question, the immediate and favorable consideration of this matter is hereby urged in order that instruction in the elementary schools may not be adversely affected.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on larger appropriations for public works in 1937, September 29, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On larger appropriations for public works in 1937**

[Delivered on September 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to request favorable consideration of the Public Works Appropriation Bill for 1937, as drafted by your Committee on Public Works in coöperation with officials of the Department of Public Works. The proposed measure calls for a total appropriation of P9,990,500, of which P1,970,000 would be taken from the special port works fund created by Act No. 3592, and the remaining amount of P8,020,500 from the general fund of the Philippine Treasury. As, after providing for the ordinary operating expenses of the Government, only a small portion of the total estimated regular income for 1937 remains unappropriated, the portion of the proposed public works appropriation to be taken from the general fund will be covered by collections from the new sources of revenue to be created and by possible increases in collections from those already existing. For this reason, it is necessary that a general proviso be inserted in the bill requiring the certification by the Secretary of Finance and the Auditor General that sufficient unobliged balance in said funds are available prior to releasing appropriations for expenditure.

As a matter of policy, the bill provides for completing or continuing construction work on projects under way. Provision has also been made for carrying out new administration projects, but these are limited to those that are considered most important. Careful consideration has been given projects recommended by members of the National Assembly and appropriations provided for those that have been properly investigated and found to be feasible and meritorious.

Items aggregating a total sum of P2,940,000 have been included as aid for the construction of provincial and municipal public works which are primarily of local concern and importance. In selecting these projects it is requested that due consideration be given to their feasibility, relative importance, and the amount required to complete at least a serviceable part of the proposed improvements.

Attention is invited to the fact that, with the prospect of increase in government revenues, it is considered advisable to provide larger appropriations for carrying out public works during 1937 than for some years past as a measure to relieve the present unemployment situation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on transfer of certain administrative supervision from the Secretary of Interior to the Secretary of Finance, September 29, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On transfer of certain administrative supervision from the Secretary of Interior to the Secretary of Finance**

[Delivered on September 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Our Government is confronted with new problems and obligations which involve increasing demands on the public treasury. On the other hand the financial relations between our central and local governments are most intimately intertwined, not only in the matter of revenue collections, but also in the granting of loans, extending of financial aid, and guaranteeing bond issues. Having in view the fact that the financial responsibility of the Commonwealth under the Constitution is not confined to the central government but also extends to its divisions and subdivisions, it is necessary to review the organization of our fiscal agencies and establish strong, coordinated and integrated financial organizations and policies.

I have, therefore, issued Executive Order No. 42, transferring to the Secretary of Finance the administrative supervision formerly exercised by the Secretary of the Interior over the offices of provincial, municipal, and city treasurers, thus consolidating the organization for collection work in an effort to insure the highest possible efficiency. A further step needs be taken for the completion of the plan by transferring, also from the Department of the Interior, the powers and supervision over the assessors, assessment of property, appropriations and other financial affairs of local governments to the Department of Finance which, by the nature of its functions, is the branch of the Public service entrusted with the financial administration of the Commonwealth.

A bill intended to accomplish this purpose is submitted herewith. Considering its importance, I trust that it will deserve your early consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on taking of New Census in 1937, September 29, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
TAKING OF NEW CENSUS IN 1937

[September 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of approving legislation for the taking of a new census.

The first years of our new Government would be the most appropriate time to take a stock of the human and material resources of the country. A new census would give an inventory of all those resources, upon the exact determination of which will depend the formulation of important national policies. It is essential that we should have accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date data on commerce, agriculture, industry and education if we are to find correct solutions to the many complicated problems in these fields.

Eighteen years have elapsed since the last census was taken. In that period great changes in population, resources, etc., have taken place. What these changes are to what extent they have taken place, no one is in a position to know exactly. A new census would tell us our progress in different fields and would serve as a guide for further progress in the future.

To reduce to the minimum the burden on the public finances, the bill contemplates the employment, as far as possible, of those already in the government service who would not receive additional compensation, except reimbursement of travel or other necessary expenses in connection with the performance of their duties. It is estimated that, if this plan is followed, the new census will entail an expenditure of not more than P1,500,000 as compared with the P4,339,030.11 spent for the 1918 census. Considering the advantages to the Government as well as to the general public of having accurate data on the multifarious activities of the country and its people, it is believed that the amount which may be spent will be more than compensated by the benefits to be derived therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, I recommend to the National Assembly the approval of the necessary legislation to make possible the taking of a new census in 1937.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on regulation of entry of aliens to and residence in the Philippines, September 30, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On regulation of entry of aliens to and residence in the Philippines**

[Delivered on September 30, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the necessity and advisability of enacting legislation regulating immigration of aliens to, and their residence in, the Philippines.

Paragraph 9 of section 2 of the Tydings-McDuffie Law and paragraph 9 of section 1 of the ordinance appended to the Constitution of the Philippines recognize in the National Assembly the power to adopt laws in connection with immigration, subject only to the condition that they shall not become laws until approved by the President of the United States. Immigration into the Philippines is actually governed by Congressional legislation, and the law on the matter was naturally drafted to meet the problems obtaining in the United States on the date of its enactment. One very fundamental provision of the law is the exclusion of Asiatics; and another is the exclusion of contract laborers.

Conditions obtaining in the Philippines and the position of the Philippines in relation to Asiatic countries should impel us to eliminate the discrimination against Asiatics now contained in our immigration laws. The Philippines can ill-afford to discriminate against her own neighbors.

On the other hand, full protection to Filipino labor demands that laborers of all classes and of all races be denied admission into the Philippines, with the exception of labor, when such is not available here.

Except as above indicated, the provisions of the Immigration Law now in force in the Philippines may be retained in the legislation that is recommended for enactment

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on prohibition of exportation of Buntal Fibers, September 30, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On prohibition of exportation of Buntal Fibers**

[Delivered on September 30, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For several years now representations have been made to me that the exportation of fibers used *asmateria prima* for the fabrication of hats has caused great injury to hat industry in the Philippines. It is the policy of the Government to promote the establishment of new industries, especially those that may be called home industries. Buntal hat weaving in the Philippines is one of the generally known home industries in the Islands, and it is a very serious matter for this industry to permit the continuation of the exportation of the fibers from which these hats are made. Previous Legislatures attempted to prohibit the exportation of this fiber without success, and it is my opinion that the time has come when the Government should stop this exportation.

The argument is presented that the prohibition of the exportation of this fiber will cause harm to the producers of the fiber. Such harm is more apparent than real. If the hat industry in the Philippines is properly developed and protected from the ruinous competition that has been made against it because of the manufacture of cheap buntal hats in countries where the price of labor is very much lower, the industry in our country could consume all the buntal that is being produced here and it could then pay the same, if not better, prices that are now being paid to the exporters of the buntal. In the long run, it is believed that no harm will be done to the buntal producers with the prohibition of this export while we may be committing a great deal of harm to our hat weavers by not giving them the necessary protection and consequently causing to lose their source of livelihood. I, therefore, hereby recommend the enactment of a law which will either absolutely prohibit the exportation of this article or impose a prohibitive export tax upon it.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on more effective Government Regulation of Securities, September 30, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT REGULATION
OF SECURITIES**

[September 30, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration a bill entitled "An Act to regulate the sale of securities, to create a Securities and Exchange Commission to enforce the provisions of the same, and for other purposes."

During the past few months we have been witnessing a wildcat speculation in securities in this country. A serious Problem pregnant with mischievous possibilities has suddenly been thrust upon us, which we have to meet immediately. Every day corporations and associations of various forms are being organized for the avowed purpose of exploring and developing our mineral resources, and they have literally flooded the country with securities of doubtful value. In order to carry on transactions in those securities, stock exchanges, dealers, brokers, and salesmen have hurried to the scene and their transactions have been so fast that the present instrumentalities of the Government have been unable to properly regulate them.

At present, sales of speculative securities are regulated by Act No 2581 as amended, otherwise known as the Blue Sky Law. This Act, however, was passed at a time when the problems arising from speculative securities were few and simple. Stock exchanges and brokers are being regulated by rules of the Bureau of Commerce issued pursuant to provisions of law which are of doubtful practical value. In fine, present laws are too inadequate to meet the situation.

The proposed bill is intended to bring about more effective government regulation of securities. A securities and exchange commission is being established which will enforce the law and regulations for the protection of the investing public. The provisions of the attached bill are based upon the idea that it is the duty of the Government to interfere whenever some people make repeated attempts to obtain something for nothing, usually at the expense of another; and that no man should be permitted to enrich himself by an unearned increment, which is justified neither as legitimate interest or reasonable profit on capital nor as a just reward for labor.

The attached bill is patterned after the modern securities and exchange laws in force in the United States. Provisions in those laws which are not deemed necessary or useful to meet our problem have been left out. Whatever deficiencies might appear in the future may very well be remedied by appropriate legislation. However, as the problem which I have described is a very pressing one, its effective solution should not suffer any delay.

In view of the foregoing, I cannot too strongly urge the approval of the attached bill.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the attached bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon on appropriation of P500,000 for the construction of Leprosaria in Luzon,
September 30, 1936**

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION OF P500,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF LEPROSARIA IN LUZON**

[September 30, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

One of our important public health problems that requires special and immediate attention is that which concerns the care and treatment of persons suffering from leprosy. To control this disease in this country, the system of compulsory segregation was adopted some thirty years ago. A leper colony was established on the Island of Culion which was then considered as an adequate place for the purpose. Ever since its establishment, the Culion Leper Colony has been the final destination of all persons suffering from leprosy. Large appropriations have been voted by the past Legislatures for its extension, maintenance and operations. Permanent buildings were constructed, sanitary improvements introduced and research work was undertaken. In spite of all these improvements, however, the lepers dislike being sent to the Colony.

Not long ago, as a step to make the restrictions on segregated lepers as lenient as may be consistent with the purpose of segregation, and in line with the advance of scientific knowledge and the discovery of treatment that promised the possibility of returning cured lepers to their homes regional treatment stations were established in Albay, Cebu, Iloilo, Sulu, and Zamboanga, while the leper department of San Lazaro Hospital was continued as a relay station for lepers before they were transferred to Culion and for the treatment of selected cases.

In view of the greater acceptability to the lepers of these regional treatment stations and the congestion in Culion which has at present more than 7,000 inmates, the sending of additional lepers to that island has been discontinued. The present plan of the administration is to apply more extensively the policy of segregating the lepers in appropriate places near their homes. To put this plan into effect, it will be necessary not only to improve the existing regional treatment stations but also to construct new ones in centrally located places that are easily accessible to the inhabitants of those districts which usually send large contingents of leper patients.

The carrying out of this plan will necessarily result in the closing of the leper department in the San Lazaro Hospital which, by reason of its inappropriate location, should not be used as a regular leprosarium. Another result will be that, with the establishment of more regional treatment stations, the policy of segregation would be more effectively executed.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Government, there are still lepers at large, hiding from the eyes of the authorities, because of their fear to be sent to Culion, thereby constituting a grave menace to the public health. If additional leprosaria are constructed, one near Manila to take the place the leper department of the San Lazaro Hospital, one

for the Cagayan Valley, and one for the Ilocano region, the resistance of lepers to segregation will diminish, particularly as their relatives would have been an access to them. It is believed that the establishment of these leprosaria would attract the lepers to come out from their hiding places and make them submit themselves to appropriate treatment.

To carry out this plan, I hereby recommend that an appropriation of P500,000 be made for the construction of three leprosaria in Luzon. At the opportune time, I shall submit other recommendations for the improvement of the leper treatment stations in Albay, in Iloilo, in Cebu and the ones in Mindanao. With these improvements, it is expected that the method of segregating lepers in groups, which is considered best adapted to the conditions prevailing in the Philippines, will be productive of beneficent results.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Primary Instruction and Adult Education, October 1, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
PRIMARY INSTRUCTION AND ADULT EDUCATION

[October 1, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the attached report of the National Council of Education dealing with primary instruction and adult education.

Section 5, Article XIII of the Constitution of the Philippines specifically states that the "Government shall provide at least free public primary instruction and citizenship training to adult citizens." There is no doubt that this provision was included in the Constitution in recognition of the fact that elementary instruction is the birthright of every child. Equal educational opportunities, at least in the primary grades, for all children whether rich or poor is an accepted doctrine in democracies. Older countries with more ample resources have carried this principle of equal educational opportunities beyond the primary grades to the intermediate and even to the secondary schools.

As a matter of fact, democracies have gone further and have made it the duty of the government to compel every child to use that birthright irrespective of whether or not he or his parents desire it. They have likewise adopted such measures as would keep all children in school long enough that they may be properly instructed as to their duties and rights in the community in which they will live.

I do not deem it advisable at present to compel every child of primary school age to attend school because unfortunately the financial condition of our Government at this time is such that it will not be possible to provide all the necessary facilities. I believe, however, that through a re-allotment of our present income and the creation of new sources of revenue it would be within our capacity to carry out the intention of the Constitution to provide primary instruction for all children who may apply for admission and, in addition, compel all who enroll in the first grade to remain in school until they have completed the primary course.

The problem of adult education assumes importance when we consider the number of men and women in the country who cannot even read or write. Although adult education embraces a variety of activities, the campaign against illiteracy will undoubtedly be one of its most important phases for the first few years. It is very essential for the welfare of the country that we reduce as much as possible the number of illiterates so that our people may be properly informed as to what the Government is trying to do for their welfare, what rights and privileges they are entitled to, and what their obligation is to their community and to the nation as a whole.

I, therefore, recommend that such legislation, as you may deem wise, be enacted at this session of the National Assembly after due consideration has been given to the attached report of the National Council of Education.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Reference: National Council of Education

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on construction of Modern Municipal Water Supply Systems, October 1, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On construction of Modern Municipal Water Supply Systems**

[Delivered on October 1, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Among the public improvements that the municipality need most and to which, it seems, the least attention has been given are systems of water supply. Waterworks systems offer a twofold advantage. They promote the health and sanitary condition of the community and at the same time they produce revenue. Under the present law, construction of municipal waterworks is financed both by the municipalities concerned and by the National Government, the former contributing one-third of the cost construction, and the latter two-thirds, which, however may not exceed P25,000 except when the system supplies two or more municipalities. While there are many municipalities with available sources of supply, they have failed, up to now, to take advantage of the law on the matter in view of their inability to put up their required share.

In order to obviate this difficulty it is, I believe, advisable to enact a law providing for a revolving fund of P2,000,000 to be expended in the construction of municipal waterworks which from the results of proper investigation, would produce sufficient revenue to repay themselves within a reasonable period of time. To supervise the expenditure of the fund as well as to decide on the execution of projects recommended for construction, a National Waterworks Board to be composed of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications as Chairman, and the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of the Interior as members, may be created.

The plan for financing projects contemplates that allotments made by said Board for construction purposes shall be reimbursed from collections made from water consumers within a period of not to exceed twenty years with interest at the rate of four per cent, and that the municipality or municipalities concerned shall contribute at least one-third of the estimated cost of projects if the condition of their finances so warrants. The operation of a system would remain under the control of the National Government until the cost of construction with interest has been recovered, after which time it would be transferred to the municipality concerned.

The adoption of this new plan for financing municipal water-supply systems will enable the Government to discontinue the policy of providing annual appropriations as aid for such projects, which has not proven satisfactory during recent years due to the limited amount of funds that could be set aside for that purpose. I am informed that there are a large number of proposed systems that have been investigated and approved for construction, and that there are a total of 174 projects under consideration that would provide potable water supplies for a total population of about 450,000, which are estimated to cost roughly P7,500,000. While it will no doubt be found advisable to continue to finance most of the larger projects from bond issues, it is believed that most of the smaller systems can be successfully financed from the proposed revolving fund.

The enactment of the proposed law would be in line with our present policy of nationalizing, for the common benefit, all endeavors and enterprises that partake of a public nature. More than that, as I have stated, the construction of modern water-supply systems is one of the most important factors in further improving health and sanitary conditions in our country.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Reduction or Increase of Duties on articles covered by the Philippine Tariff Law by the President, October 2, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REDUCTION OR INCREASE OF DUTIES ON ARTICLES
COVERED BY THE PHILIPPINE TARIFF LAW BY THE
PRESIDENT**

[October 2, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to urge upon you the necessity of enacting legislation for the purpose of empowering the President of the Philippines to reduce or increase the duties on each or all the articles covered by the Philippine Tariff Law, the reduction to be not less than 75 per centum and the increase not more than 400 per centum of the present tariff rates.

The object of this flexible clause in the tariff is to provide for an instrument for quick adjustment of the tariff to changing conditions, with the end in view of giving sufficient protection to local industries already established or that may hereafter be established.

The present Philippine Tariff Law which was enacted in the year 1909 is no longer adequate to give proper protection to our local industries and further their development. The rates of duty in several cases are too low to encourage local business men to establish new industries which can successfully compete in our own market with imported products. A general revision upwards of the tariff besides involving a long and tedious process, might result either in insufficient protection to local enterprises or in unwarranted increase in the cost of living. This difficulty could be obviated by the prompt use of a flexible clause increasing the rates when protection is necessary and decreasing them when advisable.

There are numerous commodities the production of which cannot be attempted locally for some time to come as they are being imported from the United States at a reasonable cost in view of the law providing for free trade between both countries. These products should also be given suitable protection in our market as long as the United States gives similar benefit to our products exported to the American market.

Local capitalists and even government agencies established for the purpose of initiating new industries in the country hesitate to invest their money in new enterprises or develop those already established, because the tariff does not give sufficient protection nor is there a guaranty of future adequate protection. On the other hand, the National Assembly might be reluctant to pass protective tariff measures that would increase the cost of imported goods when it sees no existing industry requiring such protection or when the enactment of high tariff rates might be detrimental to the interests of the consuming public. As a compromise, the tariff should be provided with a flexible clause that will offer the possibility of giving instant protection when new industries are established and begin to operate, or of affording immediate relief to the consumers during periods of emergency.

Several countries, including the United States, have already found it necessary to insert flexible clauses in their tariffs to protect their own industries and agriculture. Some have authorized their chief executive to change the tariff rates and classifications of merchandise without legislative action, to foster advantageous reciprocal commerce relations.

For the protection, therefore, of our own local industries which should be given encouragement by the Government to develop and expand, it is imperative that legislation be enacted during the present session of the Assembly to clothe the Chief Executive with power to increase or reduce the tariff rates during such times as may be deemed warranted under the circumstances of each case, in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, section 14, paragraph (2), of the Constitution of the Philippines.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on creation of the National Power Corporation, October 2, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On creation of the National Power Corporation**

[Delivered on October 2, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act creating the National Power Corporation, prescribing its powers and activities, appropriating the necessary funds therefor, reserving the unappropriated public waters for its use, and for other purposes.”

Under our platform we are committed to the proposition of placing the cost of public utilities of prime necessity, such as electric service, within easy reach of the public. The Administration has further undertaken to carry out the policy of planned economy in production, as provided in various legislation enacted in your inaugural session.

The exploitation and husbanding of the water power resources of the country is an essential factor to all productive enterprises, and the National Economic Council has rightly recommended its study and execution even ahead of the establishment of other industries.

To carry out this program, I recommend the create of a public corporation to be known as the National Power Corporation which will take charge of the study and investigation and the ultimate exploitation and development of all hydro-electric resources of the nation. There is no immediate financial obligation which the public treasury will have to meet, except the appropriation of P250,000 which will be needed to organize the corporation and conduct its preliminary studies and investigation. The financing of the entire undertaking is so planned out as to necessitate no further direct expenditures of public funds.

The need for organizing the National Power Corporation at this stage of our economic development cannot be too strongly emphasized. I, therefore, urge the approval of the attached bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on increase of the estimate off the Total Regular Income of the National Government for 1937 by P5,002,000, October 7, 1936 Message
of

His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly

On increase of the estimate off the Total Regular Income of the National Government for 1937 by P5,002,000

[Delivered on October 7, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with my message to you of September 28, 1936, in which I raised the total estimated regular income for 1936 by P5,603,100 on account of the increase actually realized in the revenue collections during the, first eight months of the year, I hereby also raise, based on the same increase in the collection of the Government revenues, the estimate of the total regular income of the National Government accruing to the general fund by the amount of P5,002,600 or from P65,817,400 as originally estimated in the budget for 1937, to P70,820,000.

I am submitting for your information the attached statement showing the estimates of income from the different sources for the years 1936 and 1937.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on consideration of three important bills, October 8, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On consideration of three important bills**

[Delivered on October 8, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting to you herewith, for your consideration, three bills entitled:

- (1) An Act reverting to the unappropriated general fund in the Philippine Treasury all amounts collected by the Bohol and Cagayan Filipino colonies established under Act Numbered Twenty-two hundred and fifty-four.
- (2) An Act limiting the rate of salary or wage which an employee or laborer of the Government Marine Railway and repair shops, employed under Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and eleven, may receive.
- (3) An Act granting sick leave with pay to members of the crew of any vessel of the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The provisions of these bills have, heretofore, been included in the yearly General Appropriation Acts, but they had to be excluded from the 1937 budget in view of the requirement of the Constitution that no provision or enactment shall be embraced in the general appropriation, unless it relates specifically to some particular appropriation in the bill; and any such provision or enactment shall be limited in its operation to such appropriation.

The public interest requires the continuance of the enforcement of the said provisions; hence, the necessity of their enactment in special laws.

Under the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the above-mentioned bills.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Abolition of Accrued Leave, Increase of Vacation Leave and Allowance of Sick Leave, October 22, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**ABOLITION OF ACCRUED LEAVE, INCREASE OF VACATION
LEAVE AND ALLOWANCE OF SICK LEAVE**

[October 22, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend to you the immediate abolition of the accrued leave for officers and employees of the Philippine Government, including the additional leave for Justices of the Supreme Court and the extended leave for Judges of the Court of Appeals and Courts of First Instance and teachers. Such leave privileges only exist in colonial governments where they are adopted mainly for the benefit and convenience of the officials and employees who came from the governing country. They were instituted here at the time when the great majority of the positions in the Philippine Government were occupied by Americans and the belief was prevalent that white men could not live in the tropics continuously for a long period of time without causing serious detriment to their health thus necessitating their occasional visits to the United States or other temperate countries. With the establishment of the Commonwealth Government, the different positions of which are, with very rare exceptions, occupied by Filipino officers and employees, the reason for the continuance of the said leave privileges has disappeared.

There is need, however, not only of increasing the yearly vacation leave of twelve days now authorized for each officer or employee other than Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals and Courts of First Instance and teacher, which I consider too short, but also of allowing them a reasonable number of days of sick leave. I recommend that the vacation leave of said officers and employees be increased to fifteen days, yearly, and in addition, a sick leave of not exceeding fifteen days per year be granted. Both the vacation and sick leaves should be made cumulative while the office or employee remains in the service, the maximum length of time to accumulative in favor of any officer or employee not to exceed five months.

With regard to the Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals and Courts of First Instance and teachers, their yearly vacation period correspond to the vacation leave and sick leave privileges of other officers and employees, except the justices and judges that may be required to render vacation duty, who should be allowed vacation leave with pay at any subsequent time for the same number of days that they spend on vacation duty, but not exceeding two months per year. Provision should be made to grant the Justices of the Supreme Court a maximum of two months' vacation leave and sick leave for any year in which no court is declared.

Acquired rights for accrued leave, additional leave or extended leave earned by officers and employees of the Philippine Government under the laws in force up to the date of the approval of the proposed legislation should be respected, although I would also recommend that, in the matter of the commutation of the money value of such leave, the same be limited to cases of resignation of officers and employees and to those in which it is desired to

apply the whole or part of the said money value to the payment of premiums on insurance policies the officers and employees concerned may take from the Government Insurance and Retirement System, if and when the latter is established.

I am enclosing herewith a draft of a proposed bill covering the legislation I am recommending herein.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the attached bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the consideration of important bills, October 23, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
CONSIDERATION OF IMPORTANT BILLS

[October 23, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In addition to the bills specified in Proclamation No. 95, dated October 17, 1936, and in my message to the National Assembly, dated October 20, 1936, I have the honor to request that the following measures be also considered during the present special session of the National Assembly:

- (a) Bill No. 703, entitled "An Act to amend further sections 3, 8, 13, 14, 16, 23, 24, 25, and 39 of Act Numbered Thirty-four hundred and twenty-eight, commonly known as the Workmen's Compensation Act, as amended by Act Numbered Thirty-eight hundred and twelve";
- (b) Bill No. 960, entitled "An Act appropriating additional funds to defray traveling expenses of homesteaders";
- (c) Bill No. 968, entitled "Ley que autoriza la participación de la Mancomunidad de Filipinas en la Exposición Internacional que se celebrará en Paris el año mil novecientos treinta y siete";
- (d) Bill No. 1883, entitled "An Act to authorize the participation of the Commonwealth of the Philippines in the International Exposition to be held at Nagoya, Japan, during the year nineteen hundred and thirty-seven".
- (e) Bill No. 1940, entitled "An Act to amend section 2562 and to insert four new sections between sections 2562 and 2563 of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Revised Administrative Code." (Re Municipal Court of the City of Baguio.)
- (f) *Bill No. 2382*, entitled "An Act creating a division of investigation in the Department of Justice";
- (g) Proposed amendments to Acts Nos. 4271 and 4272;
- (h) Such amendments to the Davao and Zamboanga charters as the National Assembly may deem necessary to introduce;
- (i) Such measures affecting the organization of the Government as the National Assembly may consider necessary in the interest of the public service; and
- (j) Such amendments or changes as may be introduced to the bills already approved on third reading by the National Assembly, which have not yet been acted upon by the Chief Executive.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate consideration of the measures above enumerated.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on amendment to the Charter of the Manila Railroad Company, October 24, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On amendment to the Charter of the Manila Railroad Company**

[Delivered on October 24, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting herewith for your consideration a proposed bill, entitled:

“An Act to amend paragraph sixth of subsection 2 of section 1 of Acts Nos. 1510, 2836 and 3399, to authorize the Manila Railroad Company of the Philippine Islands to construct toll viaducts, toll bridges, and toll tunnels, aside from the powers vested upon said company by its articles of incorporation.”

This measure is intended to amend the charter of Manila Railroad Company of the Philippine Islands by giving it the power aside from those already granted by its articles of incorporation, to construct, maintain, establish, and conduct in connection with the operation of its railroads, toll viaducts toll bridges, and toll tunnels. This amendment will not only facilitate the proper distribution and circulation of passenger and freight traffic of the railroad, but would also create an additional source of income for the Company, and improve its financial situation.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity for the immediate enactment of attached measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on repeal of the Charter of the National Development and establishment of a Public Corporation of the same name, October 24, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On repeal of the Charter of the National Development and establishment of a Public Corporation of the same name**

[Delivered on October 24, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit herewith a bill repealing the charter of the National Development Company and establishing in lieu thereof a public corporation having the same name but with more extensive powers, so that it may effectively execute the economic policies of the Government. This step is in line with the enactment of the charter of the National Water Power Corporation, which is a public corporation intended to develop all the water resources of the country for their utilization as power in the development of industries. The present charter of the National Development Company is not sufficiently comprehensive to give that entity the ample authority that is required in order to put into effect the economic program that is being planned by the Administration. Knowing that you are fully aware that the building up of our national economy is of vital importance to the success of the Commonwealth Government, I am confident that this measure will merit your enthusiastic approval.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity for the immediate enactment of the attached measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Amendments to the Revised Penal Code and Act No. 2580, October 24, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND
ACT NO. 2580**

[October 24, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting herewith for your consideration the following proposed measures:

“An Act amending articles one hundred and thirty-nine, one hundred and forty-two, and one hundred and fifty-four of Act Numbered Three thousand eight hundred and fifteen, known as the Revised Penal Code of the Philippine Island;

“An Act amending sections 1, 3 and 4 and repealing section 2 of Act Numbered Two thousand five hundred and eighty; and

“An Act providing for the publication and recording in the Bureau of Posts the names and post-office addresses of editors, publishers, managers, owners and stockholders of newspaper publications, and for other purposes.”

The amendments herein proposed are necessary in order to clarify certain portions of the provisions already existing as well as to correct some omissions and deficiencies thereof. In view of prevailing conditions, the enactment of these measures is of urgent necessity.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the attached measures.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Appropriation of P25,000 as aid to the P. A. A. F., October 26, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
APPROPRIATION OF P25,000 AS AID TO THE P. A. A. F.
[October 26, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the attached bill appropriating the sum of P25,000 as aid to the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation for the promotion of athletics and/or athletic competition in the schools and other civic institutions of the Philippines. The next World Olympiad will be held in Japan in 1940, and it is desirable that our young men and women should train yearly for this important international event.

For the purpose of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate consideration of this bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Appropriation of P50,000 for identifying and marking Historic Antiquities in the Philippines, October 27, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION OF P50,000 FOR IDENTIFYING AND
MARKING HISTORIC ANTIQUITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

[October 27, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the attached proposed measure entitled “An Act appropriating the sum of fifty thousand pesos to be expended under the direction of the President of the Philippines for the purpose of identifying and appropriately marking the historic antiquities in the Philippines, or preserving, or acquiring the same.”

In our onward march to our national emancipation, we should not fail to look back to our past as a people so that we may be guided by its tested experience. It is, therefore, our duty not only to teach our children, and to point to the present as well as to the future generations, the heroic achievements of our forebears, the adventures they had lived as well as the mistakes they had committed, and the ideals for which they had cheerfully sacrificed their lives, but it is likewise our duty to preserve, to repair, to conserve and appropriately mark our historic antiquities and spot that abound in our country from Batanes to Mindanao. These historic antiquities are the sacred heritage of our ancestral traditions which so enhance the supreme worth of our people.

It is one of the important duties of our Commonwealth Government, therefore; to repair, preserve, and restore into their original conditions and to identify, designate and appropriately mark the many historic antiquities that abound in our country that the present and future generations may be impressed with the significance and value of those historic spots and antiquities, and that they may not be lost to posterity here and throughout the world.

The Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee, created by Executive Order No. 451, has been doing for the last three years the important work of identifying and marking many historic antiquities and spots in the City of Manila. Because this Committee does not receive any appropriation from the National Government with which to carry its work in the provinces, it cannot extend its activity all over the Philippines. The City of Manila has been appropriating the necessary sums for carrying out the work of this Committee.

The approval of the proposed bill will enable the said Committee to carry on its work of not only providing for the marking, but likewise for the conservation, preservation, restoration, or acquisition of the historic antiquities and spots that abound in our country.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12 paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate consideration of the proposed measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Creation of a Public Corporation, “Boy Scouts of the Philippines”, October 27, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**CREATION OF A PUBLIC CORPORATION, “BOY SCOUTS
OF THE PHILIPPINES”**

[October 27, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration and early approval a bill entitled “An Act to create a public corporation to be known as the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and to define its powers and purposes.”

As created in the attached bill, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines would be an independent organization from, although maintaining a certain degree of relationship with, the Boy Scouts of America. At present, our Boy Scouts organization is merely a subdivision of the Boy Scouts of America, and while we have a Philippine Council, such Council is governed by, and is subservient to, the Boy Scouts of America Headquarters in New York.

I believe that the passage of this bill is urgent. It is essential that our boys be imbued with a sense of national responsibility and that it be impressed upon them that they are in an organization that is their own.

The time is here when a nation we should begin assuming the responsibilities that ours and while we are grateful to America for the help extended us such as that offered by the Boy Scouts of America, it seems to me that this is a duty which is ours to perform and we should be willing to shoulder it for the sake of our boys.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity for the immediate enactment of the attached measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Creation of an Institute of National Language, October 27, 1936

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the Creation of an Institute of National Language**

[Released on October 27, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The Constitution provides that the National Assembly shall take steps toward the development and adoption of a common national language based on one of the existing native dialects.

This mandate of the Constitution recognizes the fact that there is no common native language spoken by the Filipino people and that it is very necessary and highly desirable that there be one.

It is needless to elucidate the proposition that a people constituting one nationality and one state should possess a language spoken and understood by all. It constitutes one of the strongest ties that bind the people and foster the unity of national ideals, aspirations and sentiments. In the past, when the Philippines was under a foreign rule without assurance of soon becoming an independent nation, the very presence of that foreign rule was strong enough to weld our people together and to maintain our national solidarity. But since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, this unifying force has been weakening and will disappear altogether once we are independent. It is, therefore, advisable to strengthen the true ties of national solidarity, and in my opinion a common language based on one of the native dialects and used by all our people is one of these bonds. It will take time, perhaps a very long time; but by painstaking and thorough study, ways and methods can be found for developing a national language based on one of the native dialects. Because of the long and arduous process of this undertaking, the need of proceeding at once to take the steps looking forward to this end is the more evident. I am, therefore, recommending the creation of an institute of national language which will study the Philippine dialects in general for the purpose of developing and adopting a common national language based on one of them. This does not mean that our interest in the teaching of the English language in our schools will in any way be lessened. The English language will continue to be taught in our schools and it is our plan to make the knowledge of English widespread throughout the Islands, but we must also have our own common native language.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 128, October 29, 1936

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 128
**AUTHORIZING AUTOMATIC PROMOTION OF QUALIFIED
CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

[October 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am returning Bill No. 128, entitled “An Act authorizing the Commissioner of Civil Service to promote qualified civil service employees from one grade to another under certain conditions,” without my signature.

I am constrained to disapprove this bill on the ground that its approval would vitiate the principles on which the civil service is operated. Article XI, section 1, of the Constitution of the Philippines, provides that appointments in the civil service, except to positions which are policy-determining, primarily confidential, or highly technical in nature, shall be made only according to merit and fitness, to be determined as far as practicable by competitive examination. A cursory reading of this bill would show that it violates this provision of the Constitution of the Philippines.

If it is desired by the authors of this bill to give special consideration to those employees who have rendered a long period of service, this objective can now be attained by the giving of promotional examinations by the Bureau of Civil Service in which the subject, “experience and training,” is given great weight.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 405, November 6, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 405
PROVIDING FOR GRANT OF LOANS TO GRADUATES OF
AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS AND CREATION OF A
NATIONAL BOARD OF FARM LOANS

[November 6, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 405, entitled “An Act to provide loans to graduates of agricultural schools of the Bureau of Education and of the University of the Philippines and accredited agricultural institutions, and to create a National Board of Farm Loans.”

I realize the importance of giving financial aid to graduates of agricultural schools and colleges who have no capital of their own with which to undertake their chosen career. However, the condition of the finances of the Government does not permit at this time the investment one-half million pesos of its already much depleted accumulated surplus, in loans, the recovery of which will be very doubtful.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 683, November 6, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 683
PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL POLICE FORCE
IN CASE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL
PRESIDENT AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

[November 6, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 683, entitled “An Act further amending section twenty-two hundred and fifty-nine of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Administrative Code, as amended by Act Numbered Thirty-one hundred and forty-four.”

This bill provides that, as in the case of chiefs of police, in the event of disagreement between the president and the municipal council regarding the appointment of members of the local police force that extends for a period of disagreement, and its decision shall be final.

In a view of the fact that I have already approved Bill No. 2309, providing for the organization and maintenance of a state police force, which has become Commonwealth Act. No. 88. there is no longer necessity for approving this bill under consideration as section 2 of said Act provides in part that “appointments to the state police force and removal therefrom shall be made in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations, by the Commissioner of Public Safety, with the approval of the Department Head, except in the case of the chiefs of police of chartered cities where the existing laws shall govern.”

This bill is, therefore, being returned to you without my signature.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 130, November 7, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 130
REDUCING COST OF CADASTRAL SURVEYS

[November 7, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 130, entitled “Ley para reducir el costo de las mediciones de los proyectos catastrales llevados a cabo por corporaciones de agrimensores particulares y destina fondos al efecto,” which is being returned to you without my signature. I am constrained to disapprove this bill in view of the unfavorable comments and recommendations made by the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, the Auditor General, the Director of Lands and the Director of the Budget. These officials state that the effect of the bill, if enacted into law would be the assumption of the Bureau of Lands of additional work and responsibility in the collection of the obligations forced upon property owners from contracts entered into between private surveyors and municipal councils.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 274, November 7, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 274
AUTHORIZING LEASE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS
IN MANILA

[November 7, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

With deep regret, I am constrained to veto Bill No. 274, entitled “An Act to authorize the leasing of certain public lands in the City of Manila for twenty-five years” for several reasons, the main one being that it is impossible to carry out the purposes of the proposed Act as no funds have been appropriated for making the proposed subdivision, the reclamation work and the construction of streets contemplated in the bill.

It is unnecessary for me to say that I am entirely in accord with the desire of the Assembly to improve living conditions in the Tondo and San Nicolas Districts as well as in other crowded and insanitary districts in Manila and in other places in the Philippines, but this should be accomplished by the enactment of comprehensive legislation setting aside sufficient funds to enable the Executive Departments to give effect to the legislative mandate in a systematic and effective manner.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 332, November 7, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 332

**PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE
MANUFACTURE OF IMPROVED HAND LOOMS
AND ACCESSORIES**

[November 7, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 332, entitled “An Act appropriating the sum of twenty-five thousand pesos for the manufacture of improved hand looms and accessories for the distribution to the weavers in the different provinces of the Philippines,” in part, because the appropriations already made for other more important purposes have almost exhausted the amount available in the National Treasury, and especially because the purposes of the bill can be accomplished by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce by using either the fund appropriated by Act No. 3953, or the Fiber Research Fund under section 1796-B of the Revised Administrative Code.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2264, November 7, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2264
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THE
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OF VIRAC, SUBPROVINCE OF
CATANDUANES

[November 7, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2264, entitled “An Act appropriating the amount of eight hundred and eighty-two pesos as additional compensation for the justice of the peace of Virac, Subprovince of Catanduanes, for the year nineteen hundred and thirty-seven.”

The reason advanced in support of the bill is that the justice of the peace of Virac, Catanduanes, had been elevated to the rank of a justice of the peace of the capital of a regularly organized province by virtue of the provisions of Act No. 3387, which required of the justices of the peace of capitals of subprovinces of the peace of the regularly organized provinces. It should be noted, however, that Act No. 3387, amending section 207 of the Administrative Code was followed subsequently by Act Nos. 4007, 4057, and 4197 and Commonwealth Act No. 101, under which the justices of the peace of capitals of subprovinces are no longer required to have the same qualifications as the justices of the peace of capitals of provinces. It will be seen, therefore, that the reason advanced in support Of the bill lacks foundation as it is based upon a mistaken assumption regarding the present law on the matter.

Furthermore, I do not believe it to be a wise policy that legislation be enacted for the sole benefit of a particular person and not in obedience to a principle affecting, in general, the salaries of justices of the peace of the capitals of the subprovinces.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2322, November 8, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2322
AMENDING THE OSMEÑA RETIREMENT ACT

[November 8, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2322, entitled “An Act to amend section one of Act Numbered Twenty-five hundred and eighty-nine, entitled ‘An Act providing for a gratuity by reason of retirement to officers and employees of the Philippine Government who have rendered satisfactory service during six continuous years or more, and for other purposes,’ as amended.”

This bill is intended to include Judges of the Court of Appeals within the provisions of Act No. 2589, and to extend until December 31, 1937, the time limit during which Members of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals and Judges of First Instance may apply to the President of the Philippines for the benefits of the said Act. In effect the proposed law establishes a new time limit for the filing of applications for retirement under Act No. 2589, exclusively for Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Courts of First Instance. I note that several amendments had in the past been made to this Act regarding the time of filing applications but the amendments were general in character, being applicable to all officers and employees. I cannot, therefore, give my approval to this bill which is intended to benefit only a particular class of public servants.

Furthermore, I wish to invite your attention to the fact that, during the last special session of the National Assembly, legislation was passed, abolishing all existing pension systems and establishing a general insurance system for all government officers and employees, in view of which, it is believed that any further extension of the benefits of Act No. 2589 is no longer justified.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing certain items of Bill No. 2287,
November 8, 1936**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING CERTAIN ITEMS OF BILL NO. 2287
PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF DAMS INSIDE THE
FRIAR LANDS ESTATES

[November 8, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Referring to Bill No. 2287, entitled “An Act appropriates the sum of forty-seven thousand pesos for the construction and repair of certain dams inside the friar lands estates,” I wish to inform you that pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 11, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I have today vetoed the following items in the said bill:

For the construction of a dam, to be known as the Katipunan Dam in the Barrio of Palgue, Naic, Cavite
--

For the repair of the Tubigan Dam in Biñan, Laguna	
--	--

While the Government is under a moral obligation to keep in repair the irrigation systems found in the friar lands estates at the time of their sale to the present occupants until these systems are transferred to the landowners, for which reason I have no objection to the first two items mentioned in the bill, it will be manifestly unfair to the rest of the people of the Philippines who have to pay for the construction of their irrigation systems, for the Government to build new ones or extend existing ones in the friar lands entirely at public expense. I have, therefore, approved the proposed appropriations for the repair and maintenance of the Diezmo Dam in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and the Anabu Dam in Imus, Cavite, but have disapproved the proposed construction of a new dam at Palangue, Naic, Cavite, and the extension of Tubigan Dam in Biñan, Laguna.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1653, November 8, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 1653

**PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND APPROPRIATION
FOR, A LABOR CENSUS**

[November 8, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1653, entitled “Ley que provee el levantamiento del censo obrero en toda la nacion y apropia fondos al efecto,” in view of the fact that the approval by the National Assembly during its last special session of Bill No 2245, providing for the taking of a population census with classified social and economic information of the Philippines would render it unnecessary to require the taking of a separate census affecting our labor population. Under Bill No. 2245, the proposed general census office will be given ample funds and the necessary facilities with which to carry out its purpose of providing a complete and accurate census on Philippine matters, including the taking of statistical information on labor in the Philippines. I cannot, therefore give my approval to this bill, which will only result in duplication of government activities.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2090, November 18, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2090
**PROVIDING FOR ELECTION OF OFFICIALS OF MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS**

[November 18, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2090, entitled "An Act to provide for the election of municipal officers of municipal district governments, and for other purposes, by amending section twenty-six hundred and thirty of the Administrative Code."

The main purpose of the Bill is to make the officials in the municipal districts elective instead of appointive. I wish to invite your attention to the fact that on October 13, 1936, I approved Bill No. 256, now known as Commonwealth Act No. 42, under the provisions of which the President of the Philippines is authorized, in his discretion, to call by proclamation election for the officials of any municipal district. The time that has elapsed since the approval of said Act is too short to warrant a sudden change in the policy recently adopted with regard to the election of municipal district officials. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Interior, in his memorandum, dated November 12, 1936, has made representations to the effect that the progress so far attained by the people of the districts affected and the present conditions obtaining therein do not fully justify at this time the carrying into effect of the change contemplated in the bill.

I note also that the bill makes reference to the Director of the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes, empowering him to establish municipal districts in localities where the inhabitants have not progressed sufficiently in civilization to justify their being organized into various municipalities. Attention is invited, however, to the fact that the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes was abolished by a recent act of the National Assembly (Commonwealth Act No. 75) and the functions of the Director thereof have been transferred to the Secretary of the Interior by the same Act.

It is believed that the bill is defective. I cannot, therefore, give my approval to the same.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2026, November 20, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2026
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SANATORIUMS
AND CLINICS FOR THE CURE AND PREVENTION
OF TUBERCULOSIS

[November 20, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2026, entitled “Ley que establece sanatorios, clínicas y otros establecimientos adecuados para la curación o prevención de la tuberculosis y destina fondos para dicho fin.”

I am in sympathy with any measure that would help to lessen the ravages of tuberculosis in the Philippines. I am constrained, however; to disapprove the bill under consideration for the reason that the means provided for carrying out its purpose is impractical, the amount of P20,000 it appropriates not being sufficient even for the expense of establishing a single treatment and prevention clinic, and were it enough, there would be no available fund for its operation and maintenance. It is believed that a plan of campaign against tuberculosis, to be practical and productive of results, must include measures for the care of the patients before and after their confinement in the sanatoria, and an adequate system of field work for case-finding, health-educational campaign, isolation or segregation, and follow-up work.

In this connection, attention is invited to the fact that the National Assembly passed at its regular session Bill No. 1521, now known as Commonwealth Act No. 156, which authorizes the Philippine Anti-tuberculosis Society to hold horse races for the purpose of raising funds to enable the said society to carry on its work. This entity is at present Performing satisfactory service to the people and efforts should be exerted towards giving it the necessary assistance rather than embarking on new activities which will, at the outset, be handicapped by the lack of sufficient means with which to carry out the desired objective.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2222, November 20, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2222
EXCLUDING TUBA LANDOWNERS, WHO SELL THEIR OWN
PRODUCTS, FROM THE DEFINITION OF “RETAIL
DEALERS IN TUBA, ETC.”

[November 20, 1936]

Gentlemen of the national Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2222, entitled “An Act to amend section fourteen hundred sixty-five (*k*) of the Administrative Code, so as to exclude tuba landowners, who sell their own products, from the definition of ‘retail dealer in tuba, basi or tapuy’”.

It has been the policy of the Government to exempt agricultural products from the sales tax when such products are sold by the producers or landowners themselves. However, in the case of fermented tuba, which is an intoxicating beverage, the Government has subjected not only the dealers thereof to a business tax of P10 a year, but also the owners of the land where tuba is gathered. I believe that exempting the owners of the land where tuba is gathered from the payment of this tax, as proposed in the bill, would open a way for evading payment of that tax because the dealers may claim that the tuba is gathered from their own lands. Furthermore, it will entail additional expense on the part of the Government, as investigations necessarily will have to be made to ascertain who are the dealers that are at the same time owners of the land where tuba is produced, and who are the dealers not entitled to exemption provided for in the proposed law.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2381, November 20, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2381
AMENDING IN TOTO ACT CREATING THE CITY OF CEBU

[November 20, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2381, entitled “An Act amending in toto Commonwealth Act Numbered Fifty-eight, entitled ‘An Act creating the City of Cebu.’”

Attention is invited to that fact that I have recently approved Bill No. 2369, now known as Commonwealth Act No. 129, which embodies substantial and essential amendments to bring improvements to the Cebu City Charter. In view of this fact, and considering that the proposed measure contains provisions for the creation of new positions and for increases in salary of certain officials of the city government, thereby causing additional expense on the part of the City of Cebu, it is believed unnecessary and unwise to enact the proposed measure. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Interior, in his memorandum, dated November 10, 1936, has pointed out certain defects in the bill which would serve to confuse rather than improve the Cebu Charter. Such being the case, I cannot give my approval to the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1052, November 23, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 1052

**AUTHORIZING THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA TO SPEND
THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF THE PROCEEDS OF
CERTAIN BONDS**

[November 23, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1052, entitled "An Act authorizing the Province of Nueva Ecija to spend the unexpected balance of the proceeds of the bonds issued under Act Numbered Thirty-three hundred and twenty-nine for revenue-producing permanent public improvements."

Pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 3329 bonds were boated for the purpose of constructing a bridge over the Rio Grande de la Pampanga in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, and for the payment to the National Government of the indebtedness of the said province contracted for the construction of permanent public improvements, remaining outstanding at the time of the passage of the said Act. The National Government issued its own bonds with the bonds of the Province of Nueva Ecija as collateral.

As the bonds were issued for a specific purpose, I doubt the propriety and wisdom of the bill under consideration which would authorize the use of the unexpended balance of the bond fund in question for the construction of other revenue-producing permanent public improvements, whether municipal or provincial, such as markets, waterworks and toll bridges in the Province of Nueva Ecija. The bonds issued by the Government are contracts between the purchasers of the bonds and the National Government. To divert, therefore, the use of the proceeds of such bonds for a purpose other than that specified in Act No. 3329 would constitute a violation of the conditions under which the obligation was contracted. In effect, the approval of this bill would be impairing the obligation of contracts.

It may be contended that the violation of the conditions of the bonds may not be such as would affect the rights of the bondholders to collect the value of the bonds since it may be presumed that the Province of Nueva Ecija was authorized to incur this obligation only upon a full determination of its ability to pay off the said obligation. Although the Province of Nueva Ecija may have never defaulted in the payment of its contribution to the sinking fund for the retirement of these bonds, yet I consider it not to be a good policy on the part of the Government to permit the use of bond proceeds for a purpose other than that specified in the law authorizing the issuance of the bonds. The Commonwealth of the Philippines has just finished its first year of existence with an established credit comparable with other countries of the world, and we should not, by the enactment of this bill, give a chance for the bondholders to lessen their faith in the credit of our Government.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly Vetoing Bill No. 1180, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

VETOING BILL No. 1180

CONDONING THE BONDS OF LUIS LUNA ET AL.

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today vetoed Bill No 1180, entitled “Ley que condona las fianzas de mil quinientos pesos y de quinientos pesos, respectivamente, prestadas por Luis Luna, Eufemio Márquez, Sergio Lardizábal y Gregorio Flores en la Causa Criminal No. 3930, y por Mariano Pérez, Ciriaco Minavidez y Simeona Harina de Hidalgo en la Causa Criminal No. 3931, ambas del Juzgado de Primera Instancia de Joló y tituladas ‘El Pueblo de las Islas Filipinas *contra* Emilio K. Márquez’.”

It may be true, as stated in the explanatory note of the bill, that the defendant in the criminal cases mentioned therein had presented himself voluntarily to corresponding authorities and suffered imprisonment for to crime committed by him until he was granted pardon. The procedure that should have been followed in these case should have been the presentation of motion in court to lift the forfeiture of the bonds in question and not to seek redress from the National Assembly. It is not believed to be a wise policy that errors committed in court cases be cured by the enactment of special legislation.

In view thereof, in considering that bills involving cases of similar nature have in the past been vetoed by me, I cannot see any valid reason for approving the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1965, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 1965

**REGULATING THE EMPLOYMENT OF TECHNICAL
PERSONNEL IN CARE OF BOILERS, STEAM
ENGINES, MACHINES OF INTERNAL COMBUS-
TION, AND APPARATUS RUN BY MOTOR
AND HYDRAULIC POWER**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1965, entitled “Ley que regula la provisión del personal técnico al cuidado de las calderas, máquinas de vapor, máquinas de combustión interna y aparatos movidos por fuerza motriz y fuerza hidráulica.”

I am entirely in accord with the honest purpose of the bill, which is to avoid or at least to minimize the occurrence of accidents in industrial plants by employing competent personnel. Upon a careful study of the provisions of this bill, I am convinced, however, that the proposed objective would not be attained. It is feared that the approval of the bill would tend to prevent mechanical and electrical engineers duly qualified by the Boards of Examiners for Mechanical and Electrical Engineers from operating boilers of steam engines and other engines run by motor power, unless they also qualify in another examination to be given by the new proposed Board of Examiners for “maquinistas terrestres.” Its effect would be to deny the very type of men capable of designing, building and installing these machines from operating them. Under the proposed law, a candidate for the lowest engineer position (cuarto maquinista) should be at least 19 years of age, have completed only second year in high school and must have practiced at least two years in a known industrial plant. It means, therefore, that a mechanical engineer who has finished not only the high school but also the prescribed four-year course in mechanical engineering and has passed the examination given by the Government Board of Examiners must go through all the processes of qualifying first as “cuarto maquinista” (fourth engineer), then as “tercer maquinista” (third engineer), and lastly as “segundo maquinista” (second engineer) during a minimum period of four years before he can finally qualify as “primer maquinista” (chief engineer). The injustice of such requirements to be imposed upon the recognized profession of Mechanical and electrical engineering is too apparent to need further discussion of the various aspects of the bill under consideration.

Furthermore, I note that two distinct and separate government entities are empowered in the proposed measure to issue the licenses required therein. It is believed that such a requirement would just create confusion in the issuance of licenses.

Section 7 of the bill imposes upon owners of plants the payment of inspection fees every year, but does not provide for the actual performance of the inspection nor the manner in which it should be made.

In view of the foregoing considerations and of the tact that the Under-Secretary of Public Works and Communications, the Dean of the College of Engineering of the University of the Philippines, the Commissioner of Civil Service, the Superintendent of the Government Marine Railway and Repair Shops, the Board of Examiners for Mechanical Engineers, the Philippine Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, the American Chamber of Commerce, and the Manila Chamber of Commerce have registered vigorous protests against the conversion of the bill into law, I am constrained to disapprove the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2219, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 2219

**LEVYING A TAX OF ONE-FOURTH PER CENTUM OF
TOTAL SELLING PRICE OF STOCKS, BONDS OR
OTHER SECURITIES**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2219, entitled "An Act to levy a tax of one-fourth of one per centum of the total selling price of stocks, bonds or other securities of any corporation, firm or association, with certain exemptions."

The approval of the proposed measure would undoubtedly bring appreciable income to the Government which is badly needed to finance its various activities. Upon careful study of the bill, however, I entertain serious doubts as to the wisdom of the proposed measure. My doubts have been strengthened by a communication received from the Collector of Internal Revenue, who has made representations to the effect that will encourage transaction of traders in securities through clandestine or unlicensed brokers. The bill intends to tax every sale of stocks, bonds and other securities, and in the case of a sale at a loss, it would be hard for the taxpayer to bear the burden, who may devise ways to evade the payment of the tax. As the certificate of stock need not be transferred in the name of the purchaser and as it may be transferred from hand to hand without recording the transfer in the books of the corporation issuing the stock, it would be an easy matter for an ingenious trader to make his transactions through clandestine or unlicensed brokers. If this procedure is followed in most of the transactions, the Government will sustain a tremendous loss in revenue from the 4% tax now required to be paid on the commissions of stock brokers in excess of P500 a quarter. It will also operate to drive away from business a considerable number of duly licensed brokers who now pay to the Government an annual tax of P80 each and a percentage tax on their commissions. Moreover, the absence of records on the part of the unlicensed brokers will render difficult the verification by internal-revenue officers of the incomes and profits derived by traders in stocks for income tax purposes, without mentioning the loss by way of documentary stamp tax now prescribed by law on every transfer of certificates of stock.

Considering that the trading in securities in the Philippines is still its infancy and should be given encouragement to expand, and in view of the fact that the Secretary of Finance and the Collector of Internal Revenue have brought out strong reasons against the enactment of the proposed measure, I cannot give my approval to Bill No. 2219.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1984, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 1984

**PROVIDING FOR STANDARDIZATION OF SALARIES OF
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF BAGUIO**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have vetoed Bill No. 1984 entitled “An Act to amend Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Revised Administrative Code, by inserting between sections twenty-five hundred and forty-five and twenty-five hundred and forty-six, a new section, to be known as section twenty-five hundred and forty-five-A, regarding, salaries of officials and employees of the City of Baguio,” because some of its provisions are already taken care of in Commonwealth Acts Nos. 143 and 224 and also because, while I would have been inclined to approve the increase of the salaries of the Mayor, the City Treasurer and the Auditor, the other positions therein created or for which salaries have been increased, are not in my opinion justified at this time. The provision regarding minimum salaries of laborers and employees will not be affected because the City of Baguio will have to pay the minimum salaries and wages, in accordance with the existing laws passed by the Assembly or executive orders issued by me. In any event, the Municipal Council has been specifically ordered by my Office to comply with this clause of the bill which I have vetoed.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1536, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 1536
PROVIDING FOR EXTENSION OF THE ANGAT IRRIGATION
SYSTEM

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1536 entitled “Ley que dispone la extensión del sistema de riego del Río Angat a los Barrios de Matimbo, Mambog, Panasahan y Bagna, del Municipio de Malolos, Provincia de Bulacán, y consigna fondos al efecto.”

When it is intended to construct irrigation systems for the benefit of landowners, it has been the policy of the Government to float bonds for the purpose of financing such projects with the idea that the Government will be reimbursed by the landowners of at least the cost of the operation and maintenance of such irrigation systems (Act 4185). The proposed measure is a departure from that policy as it seeks to extend the Angat River Irrigation System in Bulacan to certain barrios in the Municipality of Malolos at the direct expense of the National Government in the amount of P8,000. I do not see any special reason in the present instance to justify departing from the established policy of the Government in the matter of constructing or extending irrigation systems. If it is intended to extend the Angat Irrigation System, as proposed in the bill, resort should be made to the irrigation fund established under the Irrigation Act and not to the general funds of the National Treasury which are needed to finance more urgent government activities.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2378, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2378
EXEMPTING FROM THE MERCHANTS' SALES TAX SALES
OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THROUGH PRODUCE
EXCHANGES

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2378, entitled "An Act to amend section fourteen hundred and sixty of the Revised Administrative Code, by exempting from the merchants' sales of agricultural products by or through boards of trade or produce exchanges organized or supervised by the Government of the Philippines."

In view of the fact that I have already approved Bill No. 2392, now known as Commonwealth Act No. 192, section 7 of which provides that agricultural products sold, bartered or exchanged at or through produce exchange or exchanges established by the National Produce Exchange or other exchanges organized in accordance with said Act shall be exempt from merchants' sales tax unless and until such sales, barters, or exchanges shall result in the actual physical delivery of said products to the purchasers thereof, the enactment of the bill under consideration would result in the establishment of private produce exchanges which are not subject to regulation by the National Produce Exchange.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2397, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL NO. 2397
RELATING TO FINAL DISPOSITION OF MORTGAGED
REAL PROPERTY

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 2397, entitled "An Act amending section 186 of the Corporation Law, as amended by Act No. 3610, relative to the final disposition of mortgaged real property." The finality of the bill is not without merit if applied generally to all mortgaged property. As it is drafted, however, it would operate as a clear discrimination against building and loan associations which are the only credit institutions affected by the provisions of the bill. The requirement that as soon as an offer is received for the purchase of the property at a price higher than the loan, the said property should be disposed of without delay, may result in the nullification of the right of redemption granted to the mortgagor by the statute governing building and loan associations, under which said mortgagor may redeem the property within one year after its sale and disposition. Furthermore, there would be cases when the application of the law will be practically derogatory of the rights of the building and loan associations, as it is not at all improbable that in those cases where the property is held for a long time before its final disposition, the associations may have had to spend considerable amounts to preserve the property or incur considerable losses from the proceeds of the sale before returning the balance thereof to the mortgagor. Then there is the question as to the constitutionality of this bill if applied to existing contracts.

In disapproving this bill, I wish to state that I am in sympathy with the finality sought to be accomplished by the Assembly, and would, therefore, recommend that a more careful study be made of its provisions, and all interested parties be heard thereon, so that a law may be passed that would accomplish the purpose intended with this legislation which would at the same time take care of the equities of both mortgage debtor and creditor.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1506, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 1506

**PROVIDING LIMITATIONS ON REAPPOINTMENT OF
PROVINCIAL FISCALS**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1506, entitled “An Act to amend section 403 of Act 2711, as amended by Act 3387.” The proposed amendment to this provision in our statute book would benefit only the officials named therein who were in office on November 15, 1935, and is a discrimination against others under the same condition but who have ceased in office before that date. If it is the desire of the Assembly to suspend the effects of the present statute in this respect, the suspension should be made operative in a general way.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1584, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 1584

**FIXING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT
FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE
PHILIPPINE ARMY**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1584, entitled “An Act to amend subsection(a) of section 22 of Commonwealth Act No. 1, known as the National Defense Act.” The proposed bill would fix the minimum height requirement for the commissioned officers of the Army at five feet, and this height is too low as compared with the average height of Filipinos today. The height of commissioned officers in the Army may be very well covered by interior regulation instead of by legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2198, November 29, 1936

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL No. 2198

**REGARDING LICENSES FOR FIRST- AND SECOND-
CLASS BARS**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have vetoed Bill No. 2198 of the National Assembly, entitled “Ley que reforma el articulo trece del Titulo Diez de la Ley Numero Dos mil sietecientos once, conocida por Codigo Administrativo Revisado, insertando un nuevo articulo entre los articulos dos mil quinientos quince y dos mil quinientos dieciseism y que se denominara articulo dos mil quinientos quince-A,” on the ground that it discriminates against fermented liquors manufactured in the United States. The National Assembly has just passed a tariff bill giving further protection to local manufactured fermented liquors. We are trying to secure from the United States better trade relations and it does not seem to me that it will be helpful for us to discriminate against American goods or articles.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on date of General Elections for Provincial and Municipal Officials, August 28, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL AND
MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS**

[August 28, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have called you to this special session for the purpose of complying with a requirement of an existing law which you approved in the last session, in reference to provincial and municipal elections. In the said law you provided that the next general elections for provincial and municipal officials should be held in 1938 without specifying the date or even the probable month when, in your discretion, the elections should be held. It is proper to assume that it was not entirely out of your plans that the elections may be held early in 1938. Since under the Election Law in force, not less than 100 days, and perhaps more, will be required to comply with the requisites established by law for the holding of general elections, I deem it my duty to convene the National Assembly to this special session, and at this time so as to permit you to call the general elections on the first of January, 1938, or any day thereafter.

While the Constitution gives full discretion to the Chief Executive as to the time he will give from the day of the proclamation calling a special session to the day of the convening of the National Assembly, prudence dictates that as a rule, sufficient time should be allowed so as to enable every member of the National Assembly to be present at the opening of the special session. With better and quicker means of communications now existing in the Philippines, including air, not more than ten days for this purpose is necessary. It is evident that in this particular case I have convened the National Assembly to this special session on very short notice. But I have done it, first because the members of the National Assembly present in Manila who constitute more than two-thirds of the whole body and the provincial governors also present in the city have joined in the request that I call this special session without reference to said rule, and second, because I felt that under the circumstances, the rule may well be overlooked in the interest of the public. In any event, the few members of the National Assembly still in the provinces will have time to attend the sessions when the discussion of the measure takes place on the floor of the Assembly as there will always be some time used in the consideration of said measure by the corresponding committee.

I hope the National Assembly will also take advantage of this special session for the canvassing of the returns of the plebiscite on women's suffrage.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Emergency Appropriations for New Schools and Classes, August 30, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOLS
AND CLASSES**

[August 30, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the need for an emergency appropriation with which to open new schools and classes under the Bureau of Education in order that those children of elementary school age who were refused admission in the schools last June because of lack of teachers and equipment may be properly accommodated.

I was informed that all classes that were in operation last year had been adequately provided for but that new classes had to be organized to take care of the increase in the school population. The Department of Public Instruction submitted a request for P1,000,000 and in a radiogram dated June 28th I authorized the said Department to obligate the sum requested for the organization of additional classes after the Honorable, the Vice-President, had advised me that in a conference with members of the National Assembly and other officials concerned all agreed that it was very necessary to organize new classes.

In view of the facts above set forth, I earnestly urge upon the National Assembly the immediate consideration and approval of an Act appropriating the sum of P1,000,000 for the extension of elementary instruction.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Repeal of Probation Law, September 1, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on Repeal of Probation Law**

[Released on September 1, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I hereby recommend that Act No. 4221 establishing probation for persons convicted of certain crimes by the courts of the Philippines be repealed.

The probation system is one of the fruits of the progress that has been achieved in the field of penology in recent years. It has proved to be not only humanitarian, but also an efficacious method of reclaiming offenders whose previous conduct gives reasonable expectation that they may become useful and worthy members of the community after they have been placed for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. Every enlightened community should be guided in dealing with violators of the law, not by any desire to punish the offender in a spirit of revenge, but with a view to the protection of society and for the correction of the offender himself and the improvement of his own ways and outlook of life. In other words, I believe that the objective of criminal laws should be not only to impose respect for laws on the part of the citizen for fear of the consequences to his life or personal freedom, if for no other reason, but also to make a useful and law-abiding man out of one who was once a harmful member of the community.

The Philippines must have the probation system established here sometime; but the paramount consideration that should be borne in mind whenever a new governmental institution is to be inaugurated is whether, in practice, more good than evil is to be accomplished. In the establishment of the probation system we must see to it that the principle of equal administration of justice is maintained in all its purity and integrity—a principle that is the basic foundation of organized and civilized humanity. Unless we can administer the probation system fairly, equitably and intelligently throughout the Commonwealth, the probation system will not only fail to produce the benefits that are expected from it, but it will, moreover, do actual and serious harm. During the time that has elapsed since the enactment of Act No. 4221, experience has amply demonstrated that our probation law is very defective and has violated the basic principles above enumerated. And we cannot remedy the defects of the law by merely proceeding to amend it piecemeal, but through its immediate repeal and taking of the steps necessary to substitute for it a better law drawn in the light of the experience which we have acquired and in accordance with the characteristics of our people and the prevailing conditions in our community.

The law as it stands is discriminatory and unjust. It discriminates against citizens of the Philippines residing in the different provinces. But under the Act, the enforcement of the Probation Law is made to depend upon the willingness or ability of the provincial governments to appropriate the funds necessary for the payment of the salaries of the probation officers. No province in the Philippines has, up to this time, appropriated the necessary money for the salary of a probation officer, with the result that in no province are the benefits of probation available to convicts within the purview of the law. Only in the City of Manila may convicts, when so adjudged by the court, claim the right to have the benefits of probation applied to them. And this, not because the government of the City of Manila has appropriated the needed funds for this purpose, but because the National Government has created a probation office in Manila and is defraying the expenses of the probation officers here.

The failure, if not the refusal, of the provincial governments to appropriate funds for the salaries of probation officers in their respective provinces is a clear indication that public sentiment in the Philippines is not in favor of the system. In fact, there are persons who entertain serious doubts as to its necessity and who even believe that the system is contrary to the best interests of the administration of justice.

It may also be that the provincial governments do not have sufficient funds to maintain this new service. In any case, it is evident that the only way by which the probation system may be established and maintained with the beneficial results to be expected therefrom is for the National Government to shoulder the whole burden of the cost of the system throughout the Commonwealth. Unless the National Assembly is willing to vote the funds necessary for this purpose, in the face of the new responsibilities involved in preparing the country for complete national independence, the discrimination now existing in favor of the residents of the City of Manila and against the rest of the inhabitants of this county will continue indefinitely. Under no circumstances should this state of affairs be allowed to remain or continue. The most pernicious result of the present system is that it may give the impression that the government is favoring the rich as against the poor, not because the courts are more lenient to the rich but simply because such as those who may commit violations of the law and who would be entitled to the probation system might be residents of the City of Manila where a large portion of the rich population of the Islands live and where alone a probation court and probation officers exist. And this would certainly give the impression amongst the uninformed that the government discriminates in favor of the rich as against the poor.

It appears to me that bearing in mind all the circumstances, it would be undoubtedly in the interest of the administration of justice to have Act No. 4221 immediately repealed. After all, notwithstanding the repeal of said Act. The Chief Executive may, as facts and circumstances warrant, accord a convict the benefits of probation.

In the interim, I recommend that the National Assembly creates committee to study and draft a bill that will establish a probation system applicable to the entire Philippines and free from the defects I have mentioned.

Source: University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Appropriation for Construction of Elementary School Buildings, September 3, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on Appropriation for Construction of Elementary School Buildings**

[Released on September 3, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Agreeably with the Constitutional provision that the Government shall provide at least-free public primary instruction, it is the aim of the present administration to adopt such measures as may be necessary to accommodate in time public schools, eventually all children of primary school age. One of the First requisites in the opening of new classes or the organization of new schools is the availability of adequate classrooms in which instruction may be efficiently imparted.

In view of the fact that most of the municipalities are not now in a financial condition to appropriate the funds needed for a program of school building construction, and since it is imperative that additional facilities for primary school children be provided as soon as possible, I have the honor to recommend that the National Assembly appropriate the sum of P5,000,000 as aid to the various municipalities for the construction of elementary school buildings. Funds for this purpose may be properly appropriated from the proceeds derived in the United States from the processing tax on coconut oil (Philippine Coconut Oil Trust Fund), accruing to the Philippine Treasury.

For the purpose of paragraph (2), section 12 of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of any bill presented regarding this matter.

Source: University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Expropriation proceeding for acquisition of large haciendas, September 3, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on Expropriation proceeding for acquisition of large haciendas**

[Released on September 3, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

One of the most important problems facing the government of the Commonwealth is the agrarian question which has been the root of past and present serious troubles in our country during the last fifty years or more. It is of general knowledge that one of the most potent factors in the uprising of our people against Spain was the ownership of large haciendas by the religious orders.

God has made land for the habitation and maintenance of men, not for its exploitation and control by a few for their own profit in disregard of the public wealth. The power of eminent domain which is vested in every state is only a recognition of the principle above enunciated for it derives from the fact that the state represents the nation as a whole or the men, women and children composing it. Various methods have been employed to reclaim the land from the big landlords and place it in the hands of the people,—those two would cultivate it. Then a class, family, or group has monopolized vast domains and the people thereby converted into mere serfs, history is replete with instances when in their wrath the people have revolted and by force deprived the landlords of their possessions. The Philippines is not the first country which has faced the land problem caused by the ownership of big estates. France during the French Revolution, Mexico upon the dawn-fall of the Diaz Regime, and Russia under the leadership of Lenin, to mention only a few cases, are witnesses to the human tragedy arising out of big landed ownership that has covered the pages of human progress with tears and blood, ruin and destruction.

We in the Philippines are not confronted with any such situation as has confronted the countries I have mentioned and others where the agrarian problem existed or exists. But there is enough here of the seed that may grow someday to menacing proportions so that we cannot be oblivious of, or close our eyes to, the disturbing situation confronting us. The platform upon which the executive and legislative officials of this Government have been elected contains a specific pledge that we shall solve this problem. I, myself, after my inauguration as Chief Executive, repeatedly assured the people in the name of the Coalition that this pledge shall be fulfilled. We have not been able to take efficacious steps so far towards the solution of the land problems for lack of the one essential—means funds—with which to acquire these big estates. From the proceeds of the oil tax in the United States (Philippine Coconut Oil Trust Fund) accruing to the Philippine Treasury, we can properly appropriate the necessary funds to solve this problem and it is our duty to do so forthwith.

It should be borne in mind, however, that we shall not have done all that is incumbent upon the Government to do by the mere acquisition of the big estates from their present owners and their subsequent sale to the tenants or actual occupants of the land. We may be doing nothing more than giving it a temporary solution, without assurance that the evil will not recur in the course of time, unless we make sure that the land so sold to these tenants and occupants will remain their hands or in those of their family and children. In order to insure this, a very complex problem presents itself for careful study and consideration. It will require time and the use of very competent men to devise a plan whereby; (a) the Government will not lose money in this transaction; (b) the people will not be heavily burdened by the acquisition of the land; (c) the land will be properly cultivated and remain in the hands of the new owners; and (d) that the execution of such a plan will be carried out efficiently and expeditiously. I, therefore, recommend:

1. That the National Assembly appropriate seven million pesos to be spent for the acquisition of the estates which, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, should be acquired in the public interest, and that the Chief Executive be

empowered to enter into negotiations or order expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of these lands for their resale to the tenants or occupants;

2. That the Chief Executive be authorized to designate any existing department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the Government or to create out of the funds thus appropriated, a new office or agency to take charge of the administration of the lands so acquired and their resale to the people, such office or agency so designated or created to be granted all the authority necessary to accomplish the object of the law; and

3. That the Chief Executive report to the rational assembly from time to time the progress that has been made in this enterprise and the results accomplished.

It is necessary at this time that greater latitude be granted the Executive Department with regards to its powers in the prosecution of this undertaking to a successful conclusion, for we have not had time to devise plans upon which to base an appropriation in detail for submission to the National Assembly, and if we were to wait for the preparation of this plan, precious time will be lost.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), section 12 of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of any bill presented regarding the matters treated therein.

From the Message of the Pres. Vol. 3, Part I, of 197-199.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Message of President Quezon on Heavy Penalty for Jueteng, September 3, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Heavy Penalty for Jueteng**

[Released on September 3, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I deem it not only of great importance, but also of urgent necessity that an Act be immediately passed penalizing the game that is known in our country as “jueteng” with heavy imprisonment.

Gambling is doubtless one of the weaknesses of human nature that should be dealt with by governments with sound discretion; but “jueteng” is not gambling. It is merely an organized fraud—a fraud of such shocking proportions that it has become the greatest scandal in our community life. The worst victims of this criminal racketeering business are the poor. Its existence is of common knowledge, but it has been impossible to eradicate it because the penalty is either a small fine or a few days’ imprisonment.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), section 12 of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the proposed measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on appropriation for extension of Elementary Instruction, September 3, 1937
MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION FOR EXTENSION OF ELEMENTARY
INSTRUCTION**

[September 3, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message dated August 30, 1937, I invited your attention to the need for an emergency appropriation with which to open new schools and classes so as to accommodate those children of elementary school age who were refused admission in the schools last June, and for this purpose, I urged that an Act be approved appropriating the sum of P1,000,000 for the extension of elementary instruction. Since then, additional requests have been received for the organization of new classes. Upon further study of the situation, the Vice-President and Secretary of Public Instruction believes that an additional amount of P200,000 might be needed, and I, therefore, recommend that the original amount requested be increased to P1,200,000.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), section 12 of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of this measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on Expropriation proceedings for acquisition of large haciendas, September 3, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**EXPROPRIATION PROCEEDINGS FOR ACQUISITION OF
LARGE HACIENDAS**

[September 3, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

One of the most important problems facing the Government of the Commonwealth is the agrarian question which has been the root of past and present serious troubles in our country during the last fifty years or more. It is of general knowledge that one of the most potent factors in the uprising of our people against Spain was the ownership of large “haciendas” by the religious orders.

God has made land for the habitation and maintenance of men, not for its exploitation and control by a few for their own profit in disregard of the public weal. The power of eminent domain which is vested in every state is only a recognition of the principle above enunciated for it derives from the fact that the state represents the nation as a whole or the men, women and children composing it. Various methods have been employed to reclaim the land from the big landlords and place it in the hands of the people,—those who would cultivate it. When a class, family, or group has monopolized vast domains and the people thereby converted into mere serfs, history is replete with instances when in their wrath the people have revolted and by force deprived the landlords of their possessions. The Philippines is not the first country which has faced the land problem caused by the ownership of big estates. France during the French Revolution, Mexico upon the downfall of the Diaz régime, and Russia under the leadership of Lenin, to mention only a few cases, are witnesses to the human tragedy arising out of big landed ownership that has covered the pages of human progress with tears and blood, ruin and destruction.

We in the Philippines are not confronted with any such situation as has confronted the countries I have mentioned and others where the agrarian problem existed or exists. But there is enough here of the seed that may grow some day to menacing proportions so that we cannot be oblivious of, or close our eyes to, the disturbing situation confronting us. The platform upon which the executive and legislative officials of this Government have been elected contains a specific pledge that we shall solve this problem. I, myself, after my inauguration as Chief Executive, repeatedly assured the people in the name of the Coalition that this pledge shall be fulfilled. We have not been able to take efficacious steps so far towards the solution of the land problems for lack of the one essential means—funds—with which to acquire these big estates. From the proceeds of the oil tax in the United States (Philippine Coconut Oil Trust Fund) accruing to the Philippine Treasury, we can properly appropriate the necessary funds to solve this problem and it is our duty to do so forthwith.

It should be borne in mind, however, that we shall not have done all that is incumbent upon the Government to do by the mere acquisition of the big estates from their present owners and their subsequent sale to the tenants or actual

occupants of the land. We may be doing nothing more than giving it a temporary solution without assurance that the evil will not recur in the course of time, unless we make sure that the land so sold to these tenants and occupants will remain in their hands or in those of their family and children. In order to insure this, a very complex problem presents itself for careful study and consideration. It will require time and the use of very competent men to devise a plan whereby: (a) the Government will not lose money in this transaction; (b) the people will not be heavily burdened by the acquisition of the land; (c) the land will be properly cultivated and remain in the hands of the new owners; and (d) that the execution of such a plan will be carried out efficiently and expeditiously. I, therefore, recommend:

1. That the National Assembly appropriate seven million pesos to be spent for the acquisition of the estates which, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, should be acquired in the public interest, and that the Chief Executive be empowered to enter into negotiations or order expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of these lands for their resale to the tenants or occupants;
2. That the Chief Executive be authorized to designate any existing department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the Government or to create out of the funds thus appropriated, a new office or agency to take charge of the administration of the lands so acquired and their resale to the people, such office or agency so designated or created to be granted all the authority necessary to accomplish the object of the law; and
3. That the Chief Executive report to the National Assembly from time to time the progress that has been made in this enterprise and the results accomplished.

It is necessary at this time that greater latitude be granted the Executive Department with regards to its powers in the prosecution of this undertaking to a successful conclusion, for we have not had time to devise plans upon which to base an appropriation in detail for submission to the National Assembly, and if we were to wait for the preparation of this plan, precious time will be lost.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), section 12 of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of any bill presented regarding the matters treated therein.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on Appropriation for Construction of Elementary School Buildings, September 3, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**APPROPRIATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

[September 3, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Agreeably with the Constitutional provision that the Government shall provide at least free public primary instruction, it is the aim of the present administration to adopt such measures as may be necessary to accommodate in the public schools, eventually all children of primary school age. One of the first requisites in the opening of new classes or the organization of new schools is the availability of adequate classrooms in which instruction may be efficiently imparted.

In view of the fact that most of the municipalities are not now in a financial condition to appropriate the funds needed for a program of school building construction, and since it is imperative that additional facilities for primary school children be provided as soon as possible, I have the honor to recommend that the National Assembly appropriate the sum of P5,000,000 as aid to the various municipalities for the construction of elementary school buildings. Funds for this purpose may be properly appropriated from the proceeds derived in the United States from the processing tax on coconut oil (Philippine Coconut Oil Trust Fund), accruing to the Philippine Treasury.

For the purpose of paragraph (2), section 12 of Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of any bill presented regarding this matter.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on the Creation of Office for Allotments of Philippine Sugar Quota, September 7, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the creation of Office for allotments of Philippine Sugar Quota**

[Released on September 7, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

On September 1, 1937, the President of the United States signed House of Representatives Bill No. 7667 of the United States Congress, now known as the Sugar Act of 1937. Section 205 (g) of the Act reads as follows:

“The Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands shall make allotments of any quota established for it pursuant to the provisions of this Act on the basis specified in section 6 (d) of Public Law Numbered 127, approved March 24, 1934.”

In view of the foregoing provision of the Sugar Act of 1937, the power heretofore exercised by the United States High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands in connection with the allocation of the sugar quota for export to the United States now devolves upon the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

I, therefore, urge the enactment of the necessary legislation to authorize the Chief Executive to designate any existing department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the Government or to create a new office or agency to assume the responsibility and discharge the functions which the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States have seen fit to entrust into our hands. I, likewise, urge the appropriation of P200,000 to cover the necessary expenses incident to the proper functioning of the office or agency to be thus created or designated.

In due time, these matters will be submitted in greater detail to the National Assembly.

For the purposes of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation on the matter referred to.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Full Payment of Pensions to Retired Officials and Employees, September 9, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**FULL PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO RETIRED OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES**

[September 9, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In your last regular session and upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive, you enacted Commonwealth Acts Nos. 187, 188 and 189, doing away with the pension systems in force in the Philippines prior to the inauguration of the Commonwealth, for officials and employees of the Bureau of Education, the Philippine Constabulary and the Philippine Health Service, respectively. The enactment of the above-mentioned Acts was imperatively demanded by the fact that the pension systems, as established through the creation in each case of a fund constituted by contributions in equal amount made by the beneficiaries of the funds on the one hand and the Government on the other, had proved to be in bankruptcy in the total amount of P89,000,000 in 1936, according to the official report of the actuaries of the Government of the United States and those of the Philippine Government, who had studied the financial status of the pension funds.

Considering the number of people affected by the different existing legislation at the time granting pensions to the officials and employees of the Bureau of Education, the Philippine Constabulary and the Philippine Health Service, it required of every member of the National Assembly an unusual moral courage and a very high sense of public duty to face the opposition which later developed against the abolition of the said pension systems. Indeed, it was, in my opinion, the first test and from the standpoint of its political effect, a crucial one, that the present members of the National Assembly had gone through where they had to choose between the demands of organized groups on the one hand, as against the interests of the nation at large on the other. The country is proud that the members of the National Assembly came out honorably from this test with their patriotism and sense of duty well established.

Considering the very precarious situation of the National Treasury at the time, the Government had, in certain cases, done all that it could do, and in others more than it had the duty to do, in its desire to render justice to the officials and employees involved. In the case of the teachers still in the service, they were given all the contributions that they had paid, plus interest at the rate of four per centum, compounded annually, together with the contribution which was promised by the Government. In each one of these cases, the Government was not obligated by law to return the money which was contributed by it and at most it was morally obligated to return the amount paid by the employees without interest. In the case of those who had complied with all the requirements of the law and who had actually been receiving their pensions, the Government was compelled to reduce the pension rates. It is with respect to these pensioners that, in my opinion, the Government has fallen short of what the pensioners had the right to expect from it, but there was at the time no alternative offered to the National Assembly since the revenues of the Government did not permit the payment of the old pensions in their entirety.

By an Act of the United States Congress enacted in consonance with an established policy consistently followed ever since the implantation of American sovereignty in the Philippines, of reverting to the Philippine Treasury the taxes collected in the United States on articles and goods imported from the Philippines, we have now in the general funds more than sufficient money to correct the injustice that has been committed against the said pensioners. It should be a rule of conduct equally followed by individuals as well as by nations, that whenever an injustice has been clone, full and immediate reparation should be undertaken. I, therefore, recommend that the National Assembly authorize a continuing appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to pay in full the amount of the pensions which, prior to November 1, 1936, had been paid to every and all retired officials, and employees and/or their beneficiaries, of the different pension systems then established in the Philippines.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), section 12. Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the proposed measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2417, September 13, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

VETOING BILL NO. 2417 REVOKING THE PROBATION LAW

[September 13, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am constrained to veto Bill No. 2417, entitled “Ley derogando la Ley Número Cuatro mil doscientos veintiuno” because I entertain doubts as to whether the words—

“sin perjuicio de los derechos adquiridos por las personas convictas a quienes se hayan concedido los beneficios de la ley de probación *ni do los derechos de las personas que hayan solicitado los beneficios de dicha Ley antes de tener efecto la derogación de la misma,*”

read in conjunction with the subsequent provision of the bill will not be construed by the courts as already conferring the benefits of Act No. 4221 upon those who have applied for the benefits of said Act.

The repeal of the probation law has been recommended by me in a special message at the recent special session of the National Assembly. It was apparent from my message that I sought from the National Assembly the repeal of the law for cases that might come before the courts after the law has been repealed, and the need for such repeal was clearly demonstrated by the fact that it conferred in effect privileges to convicts by the courts of first instance of Manila which it did not confer to convicts sentenced by the courts of the provinces. It was beyond my intention and no reasonable person could possibly suspect the contrary, to ask of the National Assembly to deprive people who have already been convicted and who have applied for the benefits of the probation law, of any right or privilege that they may have had under the law prior to its repeal. Indeed, I am of the opinion that if the National Assembly were merely to repeal Act No. 4221 without any provision safeguarding the rights of those who are already enjoying the benefits of the probation law, or the rights that those who have already applied for the benefits of the probation law may have under that law should the courts determine that they had some rights, such repeal would not affect those rights as it is a fundamental and well-recognized principle amongst civilized governments that penal laws can have no retroactive effect. The repeal of the probation law, therefore, cannot possibly have invalidated the rights of any petitioner whose petition to have the benefits of the probation law applied to him was already before the courts if otherwise he was entitled to such benefits.

On the other hand, I cannot under any circumstance allow the conversion into law of any measure that might be interpreted as expressly granting a right or a privilege to a litigant when his petition for concession of such right or privilege is pending before the courts. This would be tantamount to an interference with the free acts of the courts on a case where they have already acquired jurisdiction. It would be a most dangerous precedent too, for it would permit the granting through legislative enactment of rights and privileges which under existing law are already being submitted to the courts for adjudication.

Much, therefore, as I wish to have stricken out from the statute books of the Commonwealth a law which I consider unfair and, very likely, unconstitutional, I prefer to have action on this subject deferred until the coming regular sessions of the National Assembly rather than take the risk of approving a bill which I fear may do more than what I have asked the National Assembly to do and what I believe the immense majority of the members of the National Assembly, at least, if not all, had no intention to do.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 2432, October 7, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VETOING BILL No. 2432—APPROPRIATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS

[October 7, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2432 entitled “An Act appropriating the sum of five million pesos for elementary school buildings.”

Acting upon Resolution No. 73, adopted by the National Assembly on August 31, 1937, I sent to you my message dated September 3, 1937, recommending that the amount of five million pesos be appropriated from the proceeds derived in the United States from the processing tax on coconut oil accruing to the Philippine Treasury, as aid to the various municipalities for the construction of elementary school buildings. In view of the lack of time then to investigate the needs of each and every municipality, it was deemed advisable to appropriate the amount of five million pesos in lump sum, the same to be distributed by the Secretary of Public Instruction with the approval of the President of the Philippines. The idea was for the executive department of the Government to determine in each instance the propriety of allotting sums for the construction of elementary school buildings as the need of each municipality may arise.

The National Assembly decided, however, to approve this bill itemizing the different school projects in places that fall within the respective districts of each assemblyman. As the Assembly likewise lacked the material time to determine the needs of each municipality, the result was the approval of a bill which suffers from many fundamental defects, namely:

- (a) The bill appropriates a maximum amount of P5,000,000, but the total of the items as specified amounts to only P4,847,000, or a difference of P153,000. It is true that the bill provides that “in the provinces or districts where the projects are not itemized, the allotments thereof shall be subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines,” but this provision cannot be held applicable to the difference of P153,000 as the provinces or districts for which it is intended are not specified in the bill;
- (b) No amounts are provided in the bill for the provinces of Cotabato, Marinduque and Oriental Misamis; and
- (c) Items are provided for barrios or places in which there are at present no schools or which are very close to other schools or where no school sites are at present available.

It is with reluctance that I vetoed this bill because I know that most of the municipalities are not in a financial condition to appropriate the funds needed for a program of school building construction and considering that it is the aim of this administration to accommodate in the public schools eventually all children of school age, conformably with the constitutional provision on this matter. The National Assembly will, however, meet in its regular session within a few days, and will, therefore, have the opportunity to pass legislation that may be free from the defects pointed out above, after proper consultation with the necessary authorities regarding the needs of each municipality.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Manuel L. Quezon, Third State of the Nation Address, October 18, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Improvement of Philippine Conditions, Philippine Independence and Relations with American High
Commissioner**

[Delivered at the Opening of the Second Session of the National Assembly, in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, Manila on October 18, 1937]

Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

At no time in ancient or contemporary history has Almighty God showered His blessings upon our beloved country as generously as He has done during this year that is about to close. In a spirit of humility and thankfulness to Him, I come to report to you that the finances of the Government are sounder than they have ever been, that our foreign and internal trade has increased, that more school houses and roads have been built and opened to the people, that public health is in good condition, and that peace and order prevail in every province, city, municipality, and barrio of the Archipelago.

In this year too, as the highest representative of our people, I have taken a step that is of the greatest moment to the Fatherland. In my recent trip abroad I proposed to the President of the United States that he recommend to the Congress the granting of complete independence to the Philippines either on the 30th of December 1938, or the 4th of July, 1939.

I feel certain that in making this petition I have expressed the views of the immense majority of our people and that it is better for us to be independent now, that is to say, as soon as the necessary steps could be taken for the orderly process of erecting an independent Republic, rather than in 1946.

I can see no valid reason why, if the Philippines can be given independence in 1946, she may not have it in 1938 or 1939. In the short span of seven years the Filipino people can hardly do anything that would substantially change their present situation. Any obstacle which would vitally affect the chances of a successful and lasting independent nationhood in 1939 cannot be overcome by 1946.

So, if we want independence at any cost and are ready to take all the consequences –the dangers as well as the advantages of independent national existence- let us have it no later than 1939. If, however, we are fearful of the possible threats that complete independence may offer to our national security, and we would rather remain under the protecting wing of the United States, then let us leave the final determination of our future to come coming generations and not deceive ourselves with the groundless hope that by 1946 we shall have become politically and economically beyond any serious difficulty.

We cannot be hesitating indefinitely. The best interest, indeed the very life, of the nation is at stake. If it is our resolve to be an independent nation, this is the time, for every year lost is to our evident disadvantage.

Our duty –the duty of the Executive and Legislative branches of the government- is plain. Under the Independence Act and the Constitution, the Government of the Commonwealth has been established to prepare the country for complete independence. Our people alone, by their own choice and direction, can command us to take a different course.

Since the news of my proposal to have the transition period shortened was published, voices in opposition to it have been heard both in public and in private. Let me say in all earnestness to those Filipinos who believe in good faith

that the security, liberty, prosperity, and peace of our common country lie in some kind of political partnership with the United States rather than in complete independence, that they should say so frankly and come out courageously in the open with an alternative plan, instead of merely adopting dilatory tactics in the belief that when the fourth of July, 1946, shall have arrived, some unforeseen event will prevent the establishment of the Philippine Republic. They have nothing to fear: there is here freedom of thought and of speech, and one may be as much a patriot advocating some other political status for the Philippines as favoring complete independence so long as in advocating he is inspired not by selfish motives but by what he honestly believes is for the commonweal. As long as the essentials of freedom are not sacrificed –and they must not be sacrificed under any consideration- the formula for securing and enjoying it may well be debated upon.

It is true that from the point of view of a foreigner who does not intend to remain in the Philippines after independence shall have been granted and who is contemplating to liquidate his interests in this country, the remaining seven years may, perhaps, give him the opportunity to withdraw his investments. But, is this a sufficient reason to postpone the grant of independence if, on the other hand, it would be to the best permanent interests of the Filipino people to accelerate its grant? Is the future well-being of a whole nation to be sacrificed for the benefit of a few foreigners? Do these foreigners have any right to a special consideration?

From the very first day of America's occupation of the Philippines, she disclaimed any intention to permanently hold these Islands. Neither did she, in thus announcing to the whole world her intentions, ever give any promise either directly or by implication that she would not withdraw her sovereignty from her newly-occupied territory at a moment's notice. Therefore, foreigners who had investments in the Philippines when the United States took possession of the Islands, as well as those who came thereafter, knew full well that they were not placing themselves under the protection of the American flag except for as long a time only, and no longer, as the Government of the United States decided to retain the Philippines.

With more reason should these foreigners have known that the days of American sovereignty were numbered when, in 1916, the Jones Law was enacted, for it was solemnly and clearly declared in that law that the Philippines would be granted her independence as soon as a stable government could be established in this country. Since the question of the stability of a government is a matter of opinion, and in the case of the Government of the Philippines, the Congress alone has the right to determine the question, that pronouncement in the Jones Law was tantamount to a formal notice to all concerned that the United States might, at any time, leave the Islands to their own fate.

It is true that when the Independence Act was approved by the Congress in 1934, it was specifically provided therein that complete independence would be granted ten years following the inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth; but the reports of the respective Committees and the speeches delivered upon the floor of both Houses of the Congress clearly show this was not a commitment addressed to foreigners having investments in the Philippines, but only to the Filipino people who, in the opinion of the Congress, might be seriously injured economically if their trade relations with the United States were abruptly terminated. If the Filipino people themselves are willing to have the date for the granting of independence advanced, there is nothing, expressed or implied, in the Independence Law that denies them the right to ask the Congress to shorten the transition period.

My main reason for asking that the independence of the Philippines be granted not later than the 4th of July, 1939, is that I am sincerely of the opinion that it will be to our best interests to secure independence during and under the administration of President Roosevelt. I know the President, his progressive and liberal ideas, his very deep sense of justice, and his friendship for and good will towards the Filipino people. I have no doubt that under his leadership we will receive from the Government of the United States the fairest treatment that we may ever expect to receive under the leadership of his successors. And if the Philippines were to become independent not later than the fourth of July, 1939, President Roosevelt would still have more than one full year to extend his helping hand to the new Philippine Republic in the early stages of its dealings as an independent nation both with the United States and the rest of the world. We could, indeed, find no better sponsor than President Roosevelt to usher the Philippines into the family of free nations.

Moreover, the experience of the last two years has shown that, although the avowed purpose of the ten-year transition period is to stabilize the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines, as provided in the Independence Act, so as to give the Filipino people a basis for making readjustments in their national economy

preparatory to the change that complete independence would bring with it, there were tendencies in Congress to disregard the terms and conditions governing said trade relations even against the will of the Filipino people.

In proposing to President Roosevelt that he recommend to the Congress the shortening of the period for the grant of independence, I also asked that the present trade relations between the United States and the Philippines be continued for at least ten years after independence. If this were done and made a part of a treaty between the Government of the United States and the Philippine Republic the trade relations between the two countries would have been placed on a stable basis during the life of the treaty.

I know that there are people who believe that these trade relations only benefit the Philippines at the expense of the American people. As far as I am concerned, I would never ask from the United States anything that we could not reciprocate in kind. If you advocate the temporary continuance of the present trade relations between America and the Philippines it is because I am convinced that these trade relations are mutually beneficial to both countries.

There is another vital reason why the date for the granting of independence should be advanced. The present political set-up is untenable in that while America retains her sovereign authority over the Philippines, she, at the same time, has placed in the hands of the Filipino people the responsibility for laying down the foundations and erecting the structure of the Philippine Republic. The continuation of her sovereignty over the Philippines imposes upon America obligations she cannot shirk, and, correspondingly, it gives her rights that are incompatible with the free exercise of our judgment as to the best means that we should adopt to prepare ourselves for an independent national existence. Conflicts of views, and perhaps of interests, may arise during the coming next eight years that may create misunderstanding and ill-feelings between the American and Filipino peoples and mar the unprecedented record of perfect cooperation and goodwill between two dissimilar races which Fate has thrown together temporarily. As long as America was the sovereign authority and reserved for herself and exercised full power over, and assumed exclusive responsibility for, the Government of the Philippines, there was no occasion for conflict. Her word was then final in all matters of public policy, and our duty was merely to cooperate with her, as we did cooperate under her authority and direction.

Upon the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth, however, the situation has changed materially. By an Act of Congress, we were given power to create our own government, controlled and managed by us, under a Constitution of our own making. It was the plain purpose of the Congressional enactment that the Filipino people, who were to become automatically independent in 1946, would, during the Commonwealth period, take such steps, as in their opinion would best ensure the stability and success of the Philippine Republic. Yet, the powers granted to the Government of the Commonwealth in the most important and essential functions of government, such as those affecting tariff, currency, finance, immigration, or those which in any way might involve the international obligations of the United States, etc., were subject to the ultimate approval of, or revocation by, the President of the United States.

It must be recognized, on the one hand, that America cannot, in fairness to herself, concede more governmental powers to the Commonwealth than she has granted without endangering her own interest and peace, nor on the other hand, can the Filipino people assume responsibility for their due preparation for independence with only such limited powers as have been vested in the Commonwealth Government. In this predicament, it were better for America and the Philippines to be independent of each other so that each may be free to act in the furtherance of her own national objectives and interests.

We have been fortunate indeed that so far the representatives of the President of the United States in the Philippines have been men of the highest character and integrity, of broad statesmanship, and of a clear vision of the task entrusted to them. You all know former High Commissioner Frank Murphy. His relations with us, not only as High Commissioner but also as Governor-General, have been very close and most cordial. In both capacities he has rendered permanent service to our people. In my last trip to America he has proven to me that his interest in our liberty and well-being is abiding.

The present United States High Commissioner has been but a few months in our midst. Some of his early acts were misrepresented or misunderstood. For a time there were some misgivings on the part of our people as to his attitude towards them and this Government. But nothing can dispel misunderstandings quicker than personal contact.

It is my pleasure and my duty to report to you –and what I am going to say is no mere gesture of official courtesy, but an honest and straight talk- that I could wish for no better United States High Commissioner in the Philippines than His Excellency, Paul V. McNutt. He measures up to his exalted position, both as an official and as a man. Indeed, it is a very difficult choice to make between Mr. McNutt, the man, and His Excellency, the High Commissioner.

Since my return, we have had some difficult problems to settle and I had occasion to appraise the true measure of him who now represents the President of the United States in the Philippines. He deserves our respect and affection. The best spirit of mutual cooperation characterizes our official association, and we have also become good friends. I feel confident that in serving his government and his country, High Commissioner McNutt will be of invaluable help to the Filipino people.

Happy and fruitful as our association with the American High Commissioner has been, I must state in all candor that these two short years of the life of the Commonwealth have already revealed some signs of the possibility of a serious conflict between the High Commissioner and the President of the Philippines in the performance of their respective duties even if each were desirous of avoiding such conflict. Perhaps there will always be found a way to arrive at some reasonable compromise as long as President Roosevelt is at the head of the American Government, and if his representative in our country were of the caliber of the two High Commissioners we have had until now; especially if the President of the Philippines understood American psychology and realized America's difficult situation during this twilight period of our nationhood. But who can foretell what will happen if another President should be in the White House, or a less sympathetic man should represent the President of the United States in the Philippines, or a Filipino President should be one entirely foreign to American ways or one-sided in his views of American-Filipino relations? The only sure remedy to this dangerous situation is to terminate it with the least possible delay.

No better evidence could have been given by President Roosevelt of his deep concern for the future welfare of our people than by the appointment of the Joint Preparatory Committee which is now sitting in conference in our country.

The following statement given out jointly by Mr. Sayre, Assistant Secretary of State, as Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Philippine Affairs, and myself on March 18, 1937, gives a complete idea of the reason for, and the object of, the creation of this Committee:

“Arrangements are being made for the appointment shortly of a joint preparatory committee of American and Philippine experts. The committee is to study trade relations between the United States and the Philippines and to recommend a program for the adjustment of Philippine national economy. This announcement followed conferences between President Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth and the Inter-Departmental Committee on Philippine Affairs, which is acting on behalf of President Roosevelt in the preliminary discussions. Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre is Chairman of this Committee.

“Inasmuch as the Independence Act provides that complete political independence of the Philippines shall become effective on July 4, 1946, and inasmuch as President Quezon has suggested that the date of independence might be advanced to 1938 or 1939, it was agreed that the joint committee of experts would be expected in making its recommendations to consider the bearing which an advancement in the date of independence would have on facilitating or retarding the execution of a program of economic adjustment in the Philippines. It was further agreed that the preferential trade relations between the United States and the Philippines are to be terminated at the earliest practicable date consistent with affording the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust their national economy. Thereafter, it is contemplated that trade relations between the two countries will be regulated in accordance with a reciprocal trade agreement on a non-preferential basis.”

The members of the Joint Committee appointed by the Inter-Departmental Committee with the approval of President Roosevelt and by me are the following:

His Excellency, the United States Ambassador to Turkey, Hon. John Van A. MacMurray, Chairman of the Committee.

American Group		Philippine Group
Joseph E. Jacobs	<i>Vice Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the American Group.</i> Mr. Jacobs is Chief of the Office of Philippine Affairs, Department of State.	Jose Y. M. Y. Philipp
Louis Domeratzky	<i>Chief, Division of Regional Information, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.</i>	Conrad
Lynn R. Edminster	<i>Chief Economic Analyst, Division of Trade Agreements, Department of State.</i>	Joaquin
Col. Donald C. McDonald	<i>Assistant to the Chief, Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department.</i>	Quintin
Carl Robbins	<i>Chief, Sugar Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Department of Agriculture.</i>	Jose E.
Frank A. Waring	<i>Senior Economist, United States Tariff Commission.</i>	Manuel

Ben Dorfman of the United States Tariff Commission and Benito Razon, Economic Adviser to the President, were later on appointed to the Committee as alternates.

This Committee held hearings in Washington, San Francisco, and Manila; and it also visited most of the provinces of the Philippines to secure first-hand information that would be valuable to the members of the Committee in making their report and final recommendation on the task entrusted to them.

After this Committee shall have submitted its report, it is my purpose to reiterate my petition that the granting of complete independence to the Philippines be advanced either to the 30th of December, 1938, or to the 4th of July, 1939, unless the National Assembly, during its present session, should express a contrary opinion.

Social Justice

Let me now turn your attention to our most immediate economic and social problems. The Philippines has undoubtedly made great strides both in the field of politics and of economics during the last three decades. Politically, we have reached the point where we are –having an almost entirely autonomous government and the assurance of complete independence. Economically, we have become an important factor in American commerce; our foreign and domestic trade has multiplied –in a word, the national wealth has greatly increased. We have accomplished, too, considerable progress in sanitation, in education, in the construction of roads and all kinds of communications, and we have acquired the modern conveniences of life. But the main beneficiaries of this most remarkable progress are the rich and the middle class. The rich can live in extravagant luxury. Some of their offspring grow up in an atmosphere of ease, with an outlook on life which gives paramount importance to society affairs, vanities, trivialities and material possessions, devoid of discipline, love for work or human sympathy. The middle class have attained a higher standard of living as compared with that prevailing during the Spanish regime. The comforts of present-day civilization are within their reach and they are enjoying them. Their sons and daughters are better-fed, better clothed, better educated –thousands upon thousands of them are now receiving the benefits of higher instruction.

Sad to tell, but it is none the less true, the same cannot be said of our laboring population. The men and women who till the soil or work in the factories are hardly better off now than they were during the Spanish regime. Of course, wages are higher than in any other Oriental country, with the possible exception of Japan. But it should be remembered that money could buy more in those Spanish days than it can now; and furthermore in the relationship between employer and employee in the days of old there was a consideration of higher value to the employee than the monetary compensation itself. Of yore employers and employees lived in personal contact and association resembling that which exists amongst members of the same family so that ties of affection bound them together

much more than material considerations. Now this no longer obtains for their relationship is almost as impersonal and detached as that existing between employers and employees in highly industrialized countries. Again, our ancestors, because of their greater ignorance, knew no better and were resigned to their hard life, believing that it was a part of the world order as decreed by Divine Will, so that the unfortunate sufferer may meet with a greater reward in Heaven.

Now the Filipino workingman, however illiterate, refuses to believe that the Creator of the Universe could have ordained that some of His creatures should live in luxury and plenty, while others, in destitution and misery. The Filipino laborer now knows that the Father of mankind loves him as much as every other human being, and, therefore, that the world has not been made for the benefit of a few, but for the happiness of all.

Still more: The Filipino workingman has heard, if he is not able to read, of the equality before the law of the poor and the rich. He has heard of democracy, liberty, and justice, since every candidate for an elective office discourses on these topics, painting to him in glowing terms the meaning of these words.

And yet, what does he actually see? How do these doctrines that he has heard propounded from the platforms affect his everyday life? His hopes have been raised, his vision has been broadened, and his outlook has been painted in bright colors. But thirty-five years of American regime has brought him only disappointments and, sometimes, despair.

Has the progress then made by the Philippines benefited our poorer population? The poor still has to drink the same polluted water that his ancestors drank for ages. Malaria, dysentery, and tuberculosis still threaten him and his family at every turn. His children cannot all go to school, or if they do, they cannot even finish the whole primary instruction for one reason or another.

Roads from his barrio or his little farm to the town there are none. Only trails are within his reach –trails that have been formed by the daily pressure of his bare feet and not because they have been constructed. As he works from sunrise to sundown, his employer gets richer while he remains poor. He is the easy prey of the heartless usurer because usury is still rampant everywhere despite legislative enactments intended to suppress it.

That is, concisely speaking, the lot of the common man in our midst, after America's long endeavor to give to all fair opportunity in the pursuit of happiness and the enjoyment of life.

It was, of course, impossible for American administrators to see and reach the lowest strata of our population. But now that the reins of government are in our hands in so far as our own domestic affairs are concerned, what excuse, what reasonable justification can there be in allowing such a social and economic order to continue?

It is high time that all the branches of this Government cooperate with one another, and with them the whole community and every good-hearted man and woman, so that at last in this dear land of ours social justice –real justice- in the relations of man to man, may reign supreme.

Our people are patient and law-abiding. They love peace. They have not lost their faith either in the executive, the legislative, or the judicial branch of the Government. As the Government is now in the hands of their own countrymen, they have become hopeful and are placing the realization of their dream for a better day in our clearer understanding of their lot, our better knowledge of conditions prevailing in the country, and in what should be the natural craving of our hearts to serve them with all the power at our command –they who are flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood.

The promotion of social justice by the State is a clear and categorical mandate of our Constitution. Our platform, the platform upon which you and I have been elected, imposes upon us the high duty of enacting measures that will improve the living conditions of the laborer and of carrying these measures into effect. We must see that laws are enacted which will not permit the exploitation of the employee by his employer and which will leave no loopholes that may be used to defeat the ends of justice. We must rely for the security of this new nation, not so much upon the might of brute force, but upon the undivided loyalty of every citizen to the Government –a loyalty founded upon

individual consciousness that this Government is his, and that it exists only for his protection, for his liberty, and for his happiness.

Both the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor are ready to help you in the preparation of the measures that are required to fill the gap that may be found in our existing legislation, for the purpose of correcting prevailing social evils and of carrying into effect the provisions of the Constitution as well as the commitments in our platform.

The Proceeds of the Excise Tax on Oil

Fortunately for us a new source of income has come to our hands that will facilitate the carrying out of our program of social justice and economic readjustment. From the proceeds of the excise tax on oil there has been accumulated up to the end of June, 1937, the sum of P96,507,227.30 in the Federal Treasury, the transfer of which amount to the Treasury of the Philippines I had secured before I left America on my last trip. This sum is now available for appropriation, the understanding with the Treasury Department of the United States being that out of that fund, P10,000,000 will be available upon thirty days' notice and the balance upon ninety days' notice.

The final decision as to how this fund shall be spent is, of course, yours. But in the exercise of my constitutional prerogative I shall take the liberty of making some suggestions regarding the purposes for which this money should be spent.

The first thing that we must bear in mind is that this fund does not constitute an ordinary income of the Government upon which we may depend for recurring obligations. When independence shall have been granted, this source of our income will cease. Were we to defray from this fund services that we cannot maintain once this income is terminated, we would have thrown away the money thus spent. We must, therefore, limit the use of this fund for national objectives, for purposes where the greater good may be derived by the Filipino people.

Concretely, I recommend that this fund be devoted to the following purposes:

1. To improve sanitary conditions of centers of population by constructing water systems or artesian wells.
2. For combating malaria where there is assurance that it can be done at a reasonable expense.
3. For the prevention of tuberculosis and the establishment of more sanitoriums, as it is well known that the white plague is the worst scourge afflicting our race.
4. For the building of new leprosariums which will permit lepers in the early stage of the disease to be treated where they may be easily reached by their families, thus making their isolation less tragic.
5. For extending free dispensary service to the poor not only in centers of population but also in outlying barrios and communities.
6. For building public schools in every barrio where there is a sufficient number of children justifying the opening of the school.

In this connection, I desire to state that it was with great reluctance that I vetoed the bill passed in your last sessions appropriating funds for school buildings. A subcommittee of the Committee on Public Instruction came to see me to secure my approval to a measure that would appropriate P5,000,000 for school buildings even before approving the regular budget of the Government. The Department of Public Instruction is now ready to furnish you with all the necessary information.

The Constitution imposes upon the Government of the Philippines the duty to give every boy and girl of school age the opportunity to receive primary instruction. As soon as there are sufficient school buildings to accommodate all

the school-age population of the Philippines and permanent means for supporting the schools have been created, there should be implanted here, in my opinion, compulsory universal primary instruction. In the meantime we should make it compulsory for every boy and girl who is now in our public schools, and those who may be admitted next year and thereafter to remain in school during the period required for the entire primary instruction. Means should be immediately provided to carry this policy into effect.

One of the discoveries which we have made since the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth is that, despite the large number of children that have gone through our public schools, as shown in the reports of the Bureau of Education, the literacy of the Islands has not increased proportionally, and the knowledge of those rudimentary subjects which the citizen of a democracy should have, has not been acquired by a population corresponding to the number of children that appear to have entered the public schools. The reason for this is simple. A large proportion of the boys and girls who have been admitted to the schools have not remained long enough to acquire any kind of useful knowledge.

7. For opening national highways and helping in the construction of provincial and even barrio roads whenever the respective provinces and municipalities pledge themselves to maintain the roads thus constructed, and in the case of barrio roads, where the volume of traffic on said roads also justifies their construction.

8. For the construction of office buildings for the National Government so as to reduce, if not eliminate, the continuous expense in rents.

9. For the purchase of large landed estates and their resale in small lots to the actual occupants thereof.

We are committed to the policy of acquiring the haciendas which, in the opinion of the Government, should be subdivided in small lots and resold to the tenants actually working on said lots. In a message to the National Assembly in its first regular session, I stated that we were not in a position to redeem this pledge, not only because we had no funds with which to purchase these estates, but also because I feared that we would only be transferring the trouble faced by the owners of these estates to the Government itself. Since then we have come into this fund accruing to the Commonwealth from the processing tax on oil, and I deem it proper and wise to use a part of it for the acquisition of these haciendas. In order that the Government may accomplish its objective more completely this time than when it brought the Friar lands, I have appointed a committee to study the whole question in its varied aspects with instructions to submit its recommendations not later than November 15, 1937. As soon as the committee submits its report, I shall refer the same to the National Assembly for such action as you may deem proper and expedient in the light of the recommendations therein contained.

10. For the development of water power, the reforestation of denuded areas, the colonization and development of Mindanao; and

11. For the financing of a long range program of economic adjustments necessary to prepare the country for the new situation attending the grant of our independence, including the establishment of new industries which at the same time will give work to the unemployed.

It is expected that the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs will include in its report a well considered program of economic adjustments to supplement its recommendation on future American-Philippine trade relations. As soon as this report has been received by me it will be immediately submitted to you for your consideration.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, before closing, allow me to emphasize the need to of giving the common man in the Philippines the benefits that the citizenry of every progressive democracy is entitled to receive. I am sure that every one of you will give to this noble task the best that is in him. An opportunity has been offered us that no past or coming generation has had or will ever have –that of creating a nation where there will be no privileged class, where poverty will be unknown, where every citizen will be duly equipped with the knowledge that will enable him to perform his duties and to exercise his rights properly and conscientiously, and where every man, woman, and child his fireside will be thankful to God for living in this beautiful and blessed land.

Message of President Quezon on improvement of Philippine conditions, Philippine Independence, and Relations with American High Commissioner, October 18, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On improvement of Philippine conditions, Philippine Independence, and Relations with American High
Commissioner**

[Delivered in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, October 18, 1937]

Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

At no time in ancient or contemporary history has Almighty God showered His blessings upon our beloved country as generously as He has done during this year that is about to close. In a spirit of humility and thankfulness to Him, I come to report to you that the finances of the Government are sounder than they have ever been, that our foreign and internal trade has increased, that more school houses and roads have been built and opened to the people, that public health is in good condition, and that peace and order prevail in every province, city, municipality, and barrio of the Archipelago.

In this year too, as the highest representative of our people, I have taken a step that is of the greatest moment to the Fatherland. In my recent trip abroad I proposed to the President of the United States that he recommend to the Congress the granting of complete independence to the Philippines on either the 30th of December, 1938, or the 4th of July, 1939.

I feel certain that in making this petition I have expressed the views of the immense majority of our people and that it is better for us to be independent now, that is to say, as soon as the necessary steps could be taken for the orderly processes of erecting an independent Republic, rather than in 1946.

I can see no valid reason why, if the Philippines can be given independence in 1946, she may not have it in 1938 or 1939. In the short span of seven years the Filipino people can hardly do anything that would substantially change their present situation. Any obstacle which would vitally affect the chances of a successful and lasting independent nationhood in 1939 cannot be overcome by 1946.

So, if we want independence at any cost and are ready to take all the consequences—the dangers as well as the advantages of independent national existence—let us have it not later than 1939. If, however, we are fearful of the possible threats that complete independence may offer to our national security, and we would rather remain under the protecting wing of the United States, then let us leave the final determination of our future to coming generations and not deceive ourselves with the groundless hope that by 1946 we shall have become politically and economically beyond any serious difficulty.

We cannot be hesitating indefinitely. The best interest, indeed the very life, of the nation is at stake. If it is our resolve to be an independent nation, this is the time, for every year lost is to our evident disadvantage.

Our duty—the duty of the Executive and Legislative branches of the government—is plain. Under the Independence Act and the Constitution, the Government of the Commonwealth has been established to prepare the country for complete independence. Our people alone, by their own choice and direction, can command us to take a different course.

Since the news of my proposal to have the transition period shortened was published, voices in opposition to it have been heard both in public and in private. Let me say in all earnestness to those Filipinos who believe in good faith

that the security, liberty, prosperity, and peace of our common country lie in some kind of political partnership with the United States rather than in complete independence, that they should say so frankly and come out courageously in the open with an alternative plan, instead of merely adopting dilatory tactics in the belief that when the fourth of July, 1946, shall have arrived, some unforeseen event will prevent the establishment of the Philippine Republic. They have nothing to fear: there is here freedom of thought and of speech, and one may be as much a patriot advocating some other political status for the Philippines as favoring complete independence so long as in so advocating he is inspired not by selfish motives but by what he honestly believes is for the commonweal. As long as the essentials of freedom are not sacrificed,—and they must not be sacrificed under any consideration,—the formula for securing and enjoying it may well be debated upon.

It is true that from the point of view of a foreigner who does not intend to remain in the Philippines after independence shall have been granted and who is contemplating to liquidate his interests in this country, the remaining seven years may, perhaps, give him the opportunity to withdraw his investments. But, is this a sufficient reason to postpone the grant of independence if, on the other hand, it would be to the best permanent interests of the Filipino people to accelerate its grant? Is the future well-being of a whole nation to be sacrificed for the benefit of a few foreigners? Do these foreigners have any right to a special consideration?

From the very first day of America's occupation of the Philippines, she disclaimed any intention to permanently hold these Islands. Neither did she, in thus announcing to the world her intentions, ever give any promise either directly or by implication that she would not withdraw her sovereignty from her newly-occupied territory at a moment's notice. Therefore, foreigners who had investments in the Philippines when the United States took possession of the Islands, as well as those who came thereafter, knew full well that they were not placing themselves under the protection of the American flag except for as long a time only, and no longer, as the Government of the United States decided to retain the Philippines.

With more reason should these foreigners have known that the days of American sovereignty were numbered when, in 1916, the Jones Law was enacted, for it was solemnly and clearly declared in that law that the Philippines would be granted her independence as soon as a stable government could be established in this country. Since the question of the stability of a government is a matter of opinion, and in the case of the Government of the Philippines, the Congress alone has the right to determine that question, that pronouncement in the Jones Law was tantamount to a formal notice to all concerned that the United States might, at any time, leave the Islands to their own fate.

It is true that when the Independence Act was approved by the Congress in 1934, it was specifically provided therein that complete independence would be granted ten years following the inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth; but the reports of the respective Committees and the speeches delivered upon the floor of both Houses of the Congress clearly show that this was not a commitment addressed to foreigners having investments in the Philippines, but only to the Filipino people who, in the opinion of the Congress, might be seriously injured economically if their trade relations with the United States were abruptly terminated. If the Filipino people themselves are willing to have the date for the granting of independence advanced, there is nothing, expressed or implied, in the Independence Law that denies them the right to ask the Congress to shorten the transition period.

My main reason for asking that the independence of the Philippines be granted not later than the 4th of July, 1939, is that I am sincerely of the opinion that it will be to our best interests to secure independence during and under the administration of President Roosevelt. I know the President, his progressive and liberal ideas, his very deep sense of justice, and his friendship for and good will towards the Filipino people. I have no doubt that under his leadership we will receive from the Government of the United States the fairest treatment that we may ever expect to receive under the leadership of his successors. And if the Philippines were to become independent not later than the fourth of July, 1939, President Roosevelt would still have more than one full year to extend his helping hand to the new Philippine Republic in the early stages of its dealings as an independent nation both with the United States and the rest of the world. We could, indeed, find no better sponsor than President Roosevelt to usher the Philippines into the family of free nations.

Moreover, the experience of the last two years has shown that, although the avowed purpose of the ten-year transition period is to stabilize the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines, as provided in the Independence Act, so as to give the Filipino people a basis for making readjustments in their national economy

preparatory to the change that complete independence would bring with it, there were tendencies in Congress to disregard the terms and conditions governing said trade relations even against the will of the Filipino people.

In proposing to President Roosevelt that he recommend to the Congress the shortening of the period for the grant of independence, I also asked that the present trade relations between the United States and the Philippines be continued for at least ten years after independence. If this were done and made a part of a treaty between the Government of the United States and the Philippine Republic the trade relations between the two countries would have been placed on a stable basis during the life of the treaty.

I know that there are people who believe that these trade relations only benefit the Philippines at the expense of the American people. As far as I am concerned, I would never ask from the United States anything that we could not reciprocate in kind. If I advocate the temporary continuance of the present trade relations between America and the Philippines it is because I am convinced that these trade relations are mutually beneficial to both countries.

There is another vital reason why the date for the granting of independence should be advanced. The present political set-up is untenable in that while America retains her sovereign authority over the Philippines, she, at the same time, has placed in the hands of the Filipino people the responsibility for laying down the foundation and erecting the structure of the Philippine Republic. The continuance of her sovereignty over the Philippines imposes upon America obligations that she cannot shirk, and, correspondingly, it gives her rights that are incompatible with the free exercise of our judgment as to the best means that we should adopt to prepare ourselves for an independent national existence. Conflicts of views, and perhaps of interests, may arise during the coming next eight years that may create misunderstanding and ill-feelings between the American and Filipino peoples and mar the unprecedented record of perfect cooperation and goodwill between two dissimilar races which Fate has thrown together temporarily. As long as America was the sovereign authority and reserved for herself and exercised full power over, and assumed exclusive responsibility for, the Government of the Philippines, there was no occasion for conflict. Her word was then final on all matters of public policy, and our duty was merely to cooperate with her, as we did cooperate under her authority and direction.

Upon the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth, however, the situation has changed materially. By an Act of the Congress, we were given power to create our own government, controlled and managed by us, under a Constitution of our own making. It was the plain purpose of the Congressional enactment that the Filipino people, who were to become automatically independent in 1946, would, during the Commonwealth period, take such steps, as in their opinion would best insure the stability and success of the Philippine Republic. Yet, the powers granted to the Government of the Commonwealth in the most important and essential functions of government, such as those affecting tariff, currency, finance, immigration, or those which in any way might involve the international obligations of the United States, etc., were subject to the ultimate approval of, or revocation by, the President of the United States.

It must be recognized, on the one hand, that America cannot, in fairness to herself, concede more governmental powers to the Commonwealth than she has granted without endangering her own interest and peace, nor, on the other hand, can the Filipino people assume responsibility for their due preparation for independence with only such limited powers as have been vested in the Commonwealth Government. In this predicament, it were better for America and the Philippines to be independent of each other so that each may be free to act in the furtherance of her own national objectives and interests.

We have been fortunate indeed that so far the representatives of the President of the United States in the Philippines have been men of the highest character and integrity, of broad statesmanship, and of a clear vision of the task entrusted to them. You all know former High Commissioner Frank Murphy. His relations with us, not only as High Commissioner but also as Governor-General, have been very close and most cordial. In both capacities he has rendered permanent service to our people. In my last trip to America he has proven to me that his interest in our liberty and well-being is abiding.

The present United States High Commissioner has been but a few months in our midst. Some of his early acts were misrepresented or misunderstood. For a time there were some misgivings on the part of our people as to his attitude towards them and this Government. But nothing can dispel misunderstandings quicker than personal contact.

It is my pleasure and my duty to report to you,—and what I am going to say is no mere gesture of official courtesy, but an honest and straight talk—that I could wish for no better United States High Commissioner in the Philippines than His Excellency, Paul V. McNutt. He measures up to his exalted position, both as an official and as a man. Indeed, it is a very difficult choice to make between Mr. McNutt, the man, and His Excellency, the High Commissioner.

Since my return, we have had some difficult problems to settle and I had occasion to appraise the true measure of him who now represents the President of the United States in the Philippines. He deserves our respect and affection. The best spirit of mutual cooperation characterizes our official association, and we have also become good friends. I feel confident that in serving his government and his country, High Commissioner McNutt will be of invaluable help to the Filipino people.

Happy and fruitful as our association with the American High Commissioners has been, I must state in all candor that these two short years of the life of the Commonwealth have already revealed some signs of the possibility of a serious conflict between the High Commissioner and the President of the Philippines in the performance of their respective duties even if each were desirous of avoiding such conflict. Perhaps there will always be found a way to arrive at some reasonable compromise as long as President Roosevelt is at the head of the American Government, and if his representative in our country were of the calibre of the two High Commissioners we have had until now; especially if the President of the Philippines understood American psychology and realized America's difficult situation during this twilight period of our nationhood. But who can foretell what will happen if another President should be in the White House, or a less sympathetic man should represent the President of the United States in the Philippines, or a Filipino President should be one entirely foreign to American ways or one-sided in his views of American-Filipino relations? The only sure remedy to this dangerous situation is to terminate it with the least possible delay.

THE JOINT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

No better evidence could have been given by President Roosevelt of his deep concern for the future welfare of our people than by the appointment of the Joint Preparatory Committee which is now sitting in conference in our country.

The following statement given out jointly by Mr. Sayre, Assistant Secretary of State, as Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Philippine Affairs, and myself on March 18, 1937, gives a complete idea of the reason for, and the object of, the creation of this Committee:

“Arrangements are being made for the appointment shortly of a joint preparatory committee of American and Philippine experts. The committee is to study trade relations between the United States and the Philippines and to recommend a program for the adjustment of Philippine national economy. This announcement followed conferences between President Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth and the Inter-Departmental Committee on Philippine Affairs, which is acting on behalf of President Roosevelt in the preliminary discussions. Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre is Chairman of this Committee.

“Inasmuch as the Independence Act provides that complete political independence of the Philippines shall become effective on July 4, 1946, and inasmuch as President Quezon has suggested that the date of independence might be advanced to 1938 or 1939, it was agreed that the joint committee of experts would be expected in making its recommendations to consider the bearing which an advancement in the date of independence would have on facilitating or retarding the execution of a program of economic adjustment in the Philippines. It was further agreed that preferential trade relations between the United States and the Philippines are to be terminated at the earliest practicable date consistent with affording the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust their national economy.

Thereafter, it is contemplated that trade relations between the two countries will be regulated in accordance with a reciprocal trade agreement on a non-preferential basis.”

The members of the Joint Committee appointed by the Inter-Departmental Committee with the approval of President Roosevelt and by me are the following:

His Excellency, the United States Ambassador to Turkey, Hon. John Van A. MacMurray, Chairman of the Committee.

AMERICAN GROUP	PHILIPPINE GROUP
JOSEPH E. JACOBS <i>Vice Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the American Group.</i> Mr. Jacobs is Chief of the Office of Philippine Affairs, Department of State.	JOSE YULO <i>Vice Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the Philippine Group.</i> Mr. Yulo is Secretary of Justice of the Philippine Commonwealth.
LOUIS DOMERATZKY <i>Chief, Division of Regional Information, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Depart- ment of Commerce.</i>	CONRADO BENITEZ <i>Dean, College of Business Administi Philippines.</i>
LYNN R. EDMINSTER <i>Chief Economic Analyst, Division of Trade Agreements, Department of State.</i>	JOAQUIN M. ELIZALDE <i>Member of the National Economic Council.</i>
COL. DONALD C. MCDONALD <i>Assistant to the Chief, Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department.</i>	QUINTIN PAREDES <i>Resident Commissioner for the Philippines.</i>
CARL ROBBINS <i>Chief, Sugar Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Department of Agriculture.</i>	JOSE E. ROMERO <i>Floor Leader, Majority Party in the National Assembly.</i>
FRANK A. WARING <i>Senior Economist, United States Tariff Commission.</i>	MANUEL ROXAS <i>Floor Leader, Minority Party in the National Assembly.</i>

Ben Dorfman of the United States Tariff Commission and Benito Razon, Economic Adviser to the President, were later on appointed to the Committee as alternates.

This Committee held hearings in Washington, San Francisco, and Manila; and it also visited most of the provinces of the Philippines to secure first-hand information that would be valuable to the members of the Committee in making their report and final recommendation on the task entrusted to them.

After this Committee shall have submitted its report, it is my purpose to reiterate my petition that the granting of complete independence to the Philippines be advanced either to the 30th of December, 1938, or to the 4th of July, 1939, unless the National Assembly, during its present session, should express a contrary opinion.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Let me now turn your attention to our most immediate economic and social problems. The Philippines has undoubtedly made great strides both in the field of politics and of economics during the last three decades. Politically, we have reached the point where we are—having an almost entirely autonomous government and the assurance of complete independence. Economically, we have become an important factor in American commerce; our foreign and domestic trade has multiplied—in a word, the national wealth has greatly increased. We have accomplished, too, considerable progress in sanitation, in education, in the construction of roads and all kinds of communications, and we have acquired the modern conveniences of life. But the main beneficiaries of this most remarkable progress are the rich and the middle class. The rich can live in extravagant luxury. Some of their offspring grow up in an atmosphere of ease, with an outlook on life which gives paramount importance to society affairs, vanities, trivialities and material possessions, devoid of discipline, love for work or human sympathy. The middle class have attained a higher standard of living as compared with that prevailing during the Spanish regime. The comforts of present-day civilization are within their reach and they are enjoying them. Their sons and daughters are better fed, better clothed, better educated,—thousands upon thousands of them are now receiving the benefits of higher instruction.

Sad to tell, but it is none the less true, the same cannot be said of our laboring population. The men and women who till the soil or work in the factories are hardly better off now than they were during the Spanish régime. Of course, wages have increased as compared with those paid when we were under the sovereignty of Spain; and these wages are higher than in any other Oriental country, with the possible exception of Japan. But it should be remembered that money could buy more in those Spanish days than it can now; and furthermore in the relationship between employer and employee in the days of old there was a consideration of higher value to the employee than the monetary compensation itself. Of yore employers and employees lived in personal contact and association resembling that which exists amongst members of the same family so that ties of affection bound them together much more than material considerations. Now this no longer obtains for their relationship is almost as impersonal and detached as that existing between employers and employees in highly industrialized countries. Again, our ancestors, because of their greater ignorance, knew no better and were resigned to their hard life, believing that it was a part of the world order as decreed by Divine Will, so that the unfortunate sufferer may meet with a greater reward in Heaven.

Now the Filipino workingman, however illiterate, refuses to believe that the Creator of the Universe could have ordained that some of His creatures should live in luxury and plenty, while others, in destitution and misery. The Filipino laborer now knows that the Father of mankind loves him as much as every other human being, and, therefore, that the world has not been made for the benefit of a few, but for the happiness of all.

Still more: The Filipino workingman has heard, if he is not able to read, of the equality before the law of the poor and the rich. He has heard of democracy, liberty, and justice, since every candidate for an elective office discourses on these topics, painting to him in glowing terms the meaning of those words.

And yet, what does he actually see? How do these doctrines that he has heard propounded from the platforms affect his everyday life? His hopes have been raised, his vision has been broadened, and his outlook has been painted in bright colors. But thirty-five years of American regime has brought him only disappointments and, sometimes, despair.

Has the progress then made by the Philippines benefited our poorer population? The poor still has to drink the same polluted water that his ancestors drank for ages. Malaria, dysentery, and tuberculosis still threaten him and his family at every turn. His children cannot all go to school, or if they do, they cannot even finish the whole primary instruction for one reason or another.

Roads from his barrio or his little farm to the town there are none. Only trails are within his reach—trails that have been formed by the daily pressure of his bare feet and not because they have been constructed. As he works from sunrise to sundown, his employer gets richer while he remains poor. He is the easy prey of the heartless usurer because usury is still rampant everywhere despite legislative enactments intended to suppress it.

That is, concisely speaking, the lot of the common man in our midst, after America's long endeavor to give to all fair opportunity in the pursuit of happiness and the enjoyment of life.

It was, of course, impossible for American administrators to see and reach the lowest strata of our population. But now that the reins of government are in our hands in so far as our own domestic affairs are concerned, what excuse, what reasonable justification can there be in allowing such a social and economic order to continue?

It is high time that all the branches of this Government coöperate with one another, and with them the whole community and every good-hearted man and woman, so that at last in this dear land of ours social justice—real justice—in the relations of man to man, may reign supreme.

Our people are patient and law-abiding. They love peace. They have not lost their faith either in the executive, the legislative or the judicial branch of the Government. As the Government is now in the hands of their own countrymen, they have become hopeful and are placing the realization of their dream for a better day in our clearer understanding of their lot, our better knowledge of conditions prevailing in the country, and in what should be the natural craving of our hearts to serve them with all the power at our command—they who are flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood.

The promotion of social justice by the State is a clear and categorical mandate of our Constitution. Our platform, the platform upon which you and I have been elected, imposes upon us the high duty of enacting measures that will improve the living conditions of the laborer and of carrying these measures into effect. We must see that laws are enacted which will not permit the exploitation of the employee by his employer and which will leave no loopholes that may be used to defeat the ends of justice. We must rely for the security of this new nation, not so much upon the might of brutal force, but upon the undivided loyalty of every citizen to the Government—a loyalty founded upon individual consciousness that this Government is his, and that it exists only for his protection, for his liberty, and for his happiness.

Both the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor are ready to help you in the preparation of the measures that are required to fill the gap that may be found in our existing legislation, for the purpose of correcting prevailing social evils and of carrying into effect the provisions of the Constitution as well as the commitments in our platform.

THE PROCEEDS OF THE EXCISE TAX ON OIL

Fortunately for us a new source of income has come to our hands that will facilitate the carrying out of our program of social justice and economic readjustment. From the proceeds of the excise tax on oil there has been accumulated up to the end of June, 1937, the sum of P95,507,227.30 in the Federal Treasury, the transfer of which amount to the Treasury of the Philippines I had secured before I left America on my last trip. This sum is now available for appropriation, the understanding with the Treasury Department of the United States being that out of that fund P10,000,000 will be available upon thirty days' notice and the balance upon ninety days' notice.

The final decision as to how this fund shall be spent is, of course, yours. But in the exercise of my constitutional prerogative I shall take the liberty of making some suggestions regarding the purposes for which this money should be spent.

The first thing that we must bear in mind is that this fund does not constitute an ordinary income of the Government upon which we may depend for recurring obligations. When independence shall have been granted, this source of our income will cease. Were we to defray from this fund services that we cannot maintain once this income is terminated, we would have thrown away the money thus spent. We must, therefore, limit the use of this fund for

what might be termed capital investments or for self-supporting enterprises. Above all we should use this fund for national objectives, for purposes where the greatest good may be derived by the Filipino people.

Concretely, I recommend that this fund be devoted to the following purposes:

1. To improve the sanitary condition of centers of population by constructing water systems or artesian wells.
2. For combating malaria where there is assurance that it can be done at a reasonable expense.
3. For the prevention of tuberculosis and the establishment of more sanatoriums, as it is well known that the white plague is the worst scourge afflicting our race.
4. For the building of new leprosariums which will permit lepers in the early stage of their disease to be treated where they may be easily reached by their families, thus making their isolation less tragic.
5. For extending free dispensary service to the poor not only in centers of population but also in outlying barrios and communities.
6. For building public schools in every barrio where there is a sufficient number of children justifying the opening of the school.

In this connection, I desire to state that it was with great reluctance that I vetoed the bill passed in your last sessions appropriating funds for school buildings. A subcommittee of the Committee on Public Instruction came to see me to secure my approval to a measure that would appropriate P5,000,000 from the excise tax on oil for school buildings, and without hesitation I gave them my consent, with the understanding, however, that the appropriation would be made in a lump sum, so as to place upon the Department of Public Instruction the responsibility for constructing these schools. I feared then that, due to the short time at the disposal of the National Assembly to consider an itemized appropriation, the bill might be defective in some way, and hence my suggestion that the appropriation be made in a lump sum. The Committee on Public Works of the National Assembly did not recommend to the National Assembly a bill in line with this suggestion, and upon the advice of my constitutional counselors I reluctantly vetoed the bill. I have no hesitancy in saying that the consideration which induced me to finally veto the said bill was the fact that the National Assembly was soon convening in its regular session, and the interest of public instruction could not be prejudiced by waiting for the regular session of the Assembly when it will then have all the necessary time and information to enact a law appropriating this amount. If you so desire, you may pass a bill appropriating the same amount of P5,000,000 for school buildings even before approving the regular budget of the Government. The Department of Public Instruction is now ready to furnish you with all the necessary information.

The Constitution imposes upon the Government of the Philippines the duty to give every boy and girl of school age the opportunity to receive primary instruction. As soon as there are sufficient school buildings to accommodate all the school-age population of the Philippines and permanent means for supporting the schools have been created, there should be implanted here, in my opinion, compulsory universal primary instruction. In the meantime, we should make it compulsory for every boy and girl who is now in our public schools, and those who may be admitted next year and thereafter to remain in school during the period required for the entire primary instruction. Means should be immediately provided to carry this policy into effect.

One of the discoveries which we have made since the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth is that, despite the large number of children that have gone through our public schools, as shown in the reports of the Bureau of Education, the literacy of the Islands has not increased proportionately, and the knowledge of those rudimentary subjects which the citizen of a democracy should have, has not been acquired by a population corresponding to the number of children that appear to have entered the public schools. The reason for this is simple. A large proportion of the boys and girls who have been admitted to the schools have not remained long enough to acquire any kind of useful knowledge.

7. For opening national highways and helping in the construction of provincial and even barrio roads whenever the respective provinces and municipalities pledge themselves to maintain the roads thus constructed, and in the case of barrio roads, where the volume of traffic on said roads also justifies their construction.

8. For the construction of office buildings for the National Government so as to reduce, if not eliminate, the continuous expense in rents.

For the purchase of large landed estates and their resale in small lots to the actual occupants thereof.

We are committed to the policy of acquiring the haciendas which, in the opinion of the Government, should be subdivided in small lots and resold to the tenants actually working on said lots. In a message to the National Assembly in its first regular session, I stated that we were not in a position to redeem this pledge, not only because we had no funds with which to purchase these estates, but also because I feared that we would only be transferring the trouble faced by the owners of these estates to the Government itself. Since then we have come into this fund accruing to the Commonwealth from the processing tax on oil, and I deem it proper and wise to use a part of it for the acquisition of these haciendas. In order that the Government may accomplish its objective more completely this time than when it bought the Friar lands, I have appointed a committee to study the whole question in its varied aspects with instructions to submit its recommendations not later than November 15, 1937. As soon as the committee submits its report, I shall refer the same to the National Assembly for such action as you may deem proper and expedient in the light of the recommendations therein contained.

10. For the development of water power, the reforestation of denuded areas, the colonization and development of Mindanao; and

11. For the financing of a long range program of economic adjustments necessary to prepare the country for the new situation attending the grant of our independence, including the establishment of new industries which at the same time will give work to the unemployed.

It is expected that the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs will include in its report a well considered program of economic adjustments to supplement its recommendation on future American-Philippine trade relations. As soon as this report has been received by me it will be immediately submitted to you for your consideration.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, before closing, allow me to emphasize the need of giving the common man in the Philippines the benefits that the citizen of every progressive democracy is entitled to receive. I am sure that every one of you will give to this noble task the best that is in him. An opportunity has been offered us that no past or coming generation has had or will ever have—that of creating a nation where there will be no privileged class, where poverty will be unknown, where every citizen will be duly equipped with the knowledge that will enable him to perform his duties and to exercise his rights properly and conscientiously, and where every man, woman, and child by his fireside will be thankful to God for living in this beautiful and blessed land.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on transmitting report of Director of Forestry on Reforestation and Afforestation, October 26, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On transmitting report of Director of Forestry on Reforestation and Afforestation**

[Delivered on October 26, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report submitted by the Director of Forestry, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of Commonwealth Act No. 119, showing the work so far accomplished by the Bureau of Forestry in reforestation and afforestation, together with a statement of expenses and balance of the appropriation of P250,000 provided for in said Act.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on transmitting report of Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce on the manner the amount appropriated in Commonwealth Act No. 110 has been spent, October 28, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On transmitting report of Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce on the manner the amount appropriated in
Commonwealth Act No. 110 has been spent**

[Delivered on October 28, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of Commonwealth Act No. 110, showing a detailed information as to the manner the amount appropriated in the said Act has been spent, as well as the results thereby accomplished.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the National Budget for 1938, October 30, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the National Budget for 1938**

[Released on October 30, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration, the National Budget for the fiscal year 1938. This budget contains the estimated ordinary income for the general fund based upon the existing revenue laws of the Philippines, and the estimated expenses for both the ordinary operation of the Government of the Commonwealth and the extraordinary expenditures and investments, exclusive of those for construction of public works.

The total estimated regular income accruing to the general fund for 1938 derived from revenues levied and collected in the Philippines is P80,445,700. The total income that is estimated to accrue this year, 1937, to the Philippine Treasury from taxes levied and collected by the National Government is P87,797,400. To this amount must be added P108,834,490.04, derived from the proceeds of the excise tax on coconut oil, which has been collected up to September 30, 1937, plus P7,500,000, that is estimated to be collected until the end of this year. Therefore, the aggregate income estimated to accrue to the Philippine Treasury for 1937 is P204,131,890, the highest mark ever reached in the whole financial history of the Government of the Philippines.

The extraordinary increase in the estimated income derived from local revenues for 1937, which is based upon collections already made up to August 31st of this year, is largely due to the favorable effect on this year's revenue collections of the unusual boom in the trading in mining stocks and securities that prevailed during 1936, as well as to the greater efficiency in the collection of taxes since the inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth. The reduction in the estimated income for 1938 is due mainly to the return to normalcy of the trading in mining stocks and securities and a marked decline in the importation of dutiable Chinese goods, caused by the Sino-Japanese conflict. However, this estimated income for next year is still considered conservative.

Chargeable against the estimated regular income derived from local revenues for 1938, the budget proposes expenditures for the ordinary operating expenses of the National Government for the same fiscal year, reaching the total amount of P76,296,207.22, which is P9,585,426.03 greater than that for 1937. This increase is due principally to the intensification and needed expansion of the different public services; the establishment of new services authorized by various laws that you have enacted; and the restoration of the rates of salaries received by officers and employees in 1932. However, as you can see from the figures above stated, the estimated regular income for 1938 will not only be sufficient to cover the estimated ordinary expenses, but will leave a reasonable amount of surplus besides.

It will be noted that the budget, in addition to the appropriations for the ordinary expenditures of the Government, proposes various items of extraordinary expenditures, which are non-recurring in nature, in the aggregate of P2,689,347, of which P1,551,599 is chargeable against the accumulated current surplus of the general fund proper and the rest, amounting to P1, 137,748 is proposed to be taken from the proceeds of the coconut oil excise tax.

You will note from the "Comparative Financial Statement" of the budget that, although the income from the coconut oil excise tax is made a part of the general fund, because, under the law, it may be appropriated for general purposes, I am, nevertheless, segregating it from the general fund proper, in order that the appropriations to be made therefrom may be properly and readily distinguished from others, and so that its condition may be clearly seen at all times.

I wish to invite your attention to the provision of the Act of Congress, which authorizes the collection of the coconut oil excise tax for the benefit of the Philippine Treasury, that "if at any time the Philippine Government provides by any law for any subsidy to be paid to the producers of copra, coconut oil, or allied products, no further payments to the Philippine Treasury shall be made under this subsection." This means that not only the proceeds of the said excise tax, but even the funds derived from the local revenues of this Government, cannot be used for aiding the coconut industry as long as we continue receiving the benefits of the coconut oil excise tax. Needless to state, it is of the utmost importance that the Government of the Commonwealth, at all times and in every case, should comply with its obligations with the Government of the United States, as it must show always its honesty and good faith whenever it enters into an agreement with another government, or any private entity, whether a corporation or an individual.

I also wish to reiterate here what I stated in my annual message to you that the funds derived from the coconut oil excise tax should not be appropriated for ordinary operating expenses of the Government, which are continuing or recurring in nature, but their expenditure should be confined to the construction of such public improvements, as waterworks, hospitals, leprosaria, sanatoria, and treatment stations for those who are afflicted with tuberculosis, schoolhouses and roads, and to such other special purposes as would help to improve the health and ameliorate the social condition of the masses of our population; extend the facilities of public elementary instruction; and promote the economic development of the country. Such expenditures, however, should be made only after adequate provision has been made for the proper maintenance of the new services and improvements to be established, not merely for one year, but for all the years to come, in the case of services of permanent nature, or until the objectives are accomplished in the case of other projects. We must not lose sight of the fact that for every schoolhouse erected, the expenses for the salary of the teacher, and for the purchase of books and other equipment will have to be provided; and that for every kilometer of road constructed, an average of P760 yearly is necessary for its maintenance. The same thing is true in the case of the other services. I shall submit to you in due time concrete plans for the use of the proceeds of the coconut oil excise tax.

Since 1933, the salaries of the officers and employees of the National Government have been subjected to the 10 per cent and 15 per cent reductions prescribed by the annual Appropriation Acts. As may be recalled, the said reductions were effected as a measure of economy to solve the financial difficulty which confronted the Government as a result of the economic depression that prevailed in 1932 and subsequent years. That emergency has already passed and the present condition of the finances of the Government is such that it can now afford to restore the salary rates, which, because of the increased cost of necessities, the officers and employees affected justly deserve. In the restoration of the former salary rates, however, care has been taken not to apply it to positions, the degree of importance of which does not warrant the payment of salaries higher than what the incumbents thereof are now receiving. Likewise, the proposed restoration of the former rates of salaries is not being extended to officers and employees, who, although affected by the salary reductions of 1933, are receiving salaries that are less than those authorized for their present positions, but equal to, or more than, the salaries they received prior to the reductions, for having since been assigned to higher positions.

The need for giving salaries to capable and efficient officers and employees of the Government, which are commensurate with the importance of their positions and the degree of responsibility that they hold, is obvious. The Government is the biggest, as well as the most complicated and difficult, business enterprise in any country. It must meet with efficient service the needs and requirements of the people who are supporting it. Strict honesty and integrity are required of its employees. There is no doubt that the Government, to accomplish its purpose, must, above all, obtain and retain the services of qualified, efficient, and honest public servants. This, of course, can only be done by giving them adequate compensation. In determining what rates of compensation are adequate for the employees of the Philippine Government, we should not overlook the fact that, although we are in the Orient, our national economy is influenced principally by the economic conditions obtaining in the United States. The prices of our major export products and of the great part of the goods we import follow those prevailing in that country. Our monetary system is tied to the U. S. dollar and any fluctuation in the value of the dollar affects our peso. Under such conditions, the government employees, like other people of their class and standing, are forced to adopt a standard of living that is moulded by exotic conditions and influences.

In view of the reasons above stated, I am recommending in the Budget for 1938, in addition to the restoration of the former salary rates, increases in the salaries of officers and employees, the nature and importance of whose positions

demand such increases to give them adequate compensation. You will note that, in the case of the Chiefs of technical bureaus, like the Solicitor-General, the Directors of the Bureaus of Public Works and Mines, the Insular Collectors of Customs and Internal Revenue, and the Insular Treasurer, I am recommending the payment of extra compensations to their incumbents in addition to the salaries regularly fixed for their respective positions. The salaries of experts and specialists, such as the Consulting Architect of the Bureau of Public Works, the Pathologist of the Bureau of Health, and others have been given due consideration.

I am also recommending that the Commissioner of the Budget be given the rank and compensation of a Secretary of Department. The Budget Office has charge, not only of the preparation of the Budget, but also of the supervision of the enforcement of the annual General Appropriation Act and other Acts that authorize the expenditure of the public funds, including the control and supervision of requisitions and orders for supplies, materials, furniture, and equipment, with a view to avoiding waste and extravagance. It also exercises control and supervision over the accounting services for all the bureaus and offices of the National Government. It serves as a clearing house for data and information that are necessary for the proper coordination of the financial and administrative policies of the Government. It proposes changes in the organization of the Government or any of its branches, as well as ways and means for their efficient and economical functioning, all of which require that the Head of the Office be kept continually and intimately informed of, and consulted as to, the major policies of the Government. In other words, under the present setup, the Commissioner of the Budget is the President's "eyes and ears" in the administration of the public funds, and, in the performance of his delicate task, he deals directly with the various Heads of Departments. The work of the Budget Office, since its creation last year, has so grown in importance and magnitude that I believe the elevation of its Head to the category of a Secretary of Department is fully justified and will serve greatly to facilitate the performance of his duties.

In line with the recommendation I made in my budget message last year, I have eliminated from this Budget the standing appropriation of P250,000 for the Belo Fund under Act No. 3431, and, in its place, I am recommending appropriations for salaries of technical and expert personnel in the Office of the Chief Executive, in some Executive Departments, and in the University of the Philippines, the need for whose services may arise from time to time. The necessary investigations, preparation of plans and execution of the varied and important projects which the administration is undertaking, will doubtless necessitate henceforth the services of expert and technical men in the different branches of the Government more than ever before. It is hoped that you will repeal Act No. 3431, otherwise known as the Belo Law.

Knowing as I do your desire to repeal the Probation Law, Act No. 4221, as demonstrated by the bill to that effect which you passed at your last special session, but which, much to my regret, I had to veto due to certain objectionable features thereof, the appropriations that heretofore have been granted to the Probation Office and the Parole Office are intended solely for the operation and maintenance of the latter, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 4103, the Indeterminate Sentence Law. Accordingly, the position of Chief of the Probation Office has been abolished and that of its Assistant Chief converted into that of Executive Officer of the Indeterminate Sentence Board.

Consistent with the budgetary policy I enunciated last year to make the annual budget the complete financial program of the Government that it should be, more special funds, which, heretofore, were not embodied in the annual budgets, are included in the Budget for the next year.

The Budget, which I am herewith submitting, is accompanied by a proposed bill prescribing the form of the Budget and the data and information that it should contain, the enactment of which will fulfill the provision contained in the last sentence of paragraph (1) of section 9 of Article VI of the Constitution. The said proposed bill also contains general provisions which would regulate the expenditure of appropriations authorized, not only by the annual General Appropriation Acts, but also by other laws. Heretofore, some of these provisions have been reenacted every year as parts of the annual General Appropriation Acts, while others are embodied in Act No. 2935 and in the Administrative Code. In view of the provision of paragraph (2) of section 9 of Article VI of the Constitution, which limits the application of a provision in the General Appropriation Act to the item or items of appropriation to which it must refer in the same Appropriation Act, I do not believe it advisable to continue the practice of enacting general provisions of permanent nature in the annual General Appropriation Act, because it creates a situation wherein the expenditure of an appropriation, authorized in a General Appropriation Act, is made under conditions different from

those under which another appropriation for a similar purpose, but authorized by a different law, is expended, the latter expenditure being governed by a provision either of Act No. 2935 or of the Administrative Code. In order, therefore, to establish a uniform practice that all branches of the National Government shall follow in the expenditure of the public funds of all kinds, regardless as to whether the corresponding appropriation is authorized by a General Appropriation Act or by any other law, I recommend that the general provisions that should govern the execution of the General Appropriation Acts for 1938 and subsequent years be enacted in a separate law.

The fiscal year 1936 closed with a current surplus of P47,907,668.89 in the general fund. The total income this year, exclusive of the proceeds of the excise tax on coconut oil collected in the United States, is expected to reach P87,797,400 while the total ordinary expenditures for the year is estimated at about P66,700,000. There will, therefore, result at the end of this year an excess of regular income over ordinary expenditures of about P21,090,000 which, added to the current surplus at the end of last year, should give a total accumulated current surplus of about P68,990,000 in the general fund proper at the end of the current year. However, as can be seen in the "Comparative Financial Statement" of the Budget, the large outlay for extraordinary purposes which you have authorized, amounting to P46,133,887.49, has considerably reduced the current surplus of the general fund proper, so that, by the end of the current year, it may fall to as low as P22,860,000. To preserve the stability of the Government's finances, therefore, I am replenishing the current surplus of the general fund proper by transferring thereto from the proceeds of the coconut oil excise tax the sum of P26,840,000 which is the total of the extraordinary appropriations that have been authorized from the general fund proper for the following extraordinary purposes:

Subscription of stock of the National Development Company, Act No. 2849	P10,000,000.00
Subscription of stock of the Manila Railroad Company, Act No. 3116	1,000,000.00
For the acquisition of land and construction of buildings for laborers, Act No. 4184	250,000.00
Loan to the Manila Railroad Company, Commonwealth Act No. 4	9,990,000.00
For the purchase of homesites in large landed estates, Commonwealth Act No. 20	1,000,000.00
For the reforestation and afforestation of watersheds, denuded areas and cogon or open lands, Commonwealth Act No. 119	250,000.00
For organizing the National Power Corporation, Commonwealth Act No. 120	250,000.00
Revolving Fund for the construction of waterworks, Commonwealth Act No. 125	2,000,000.00
For stabilizing the prices of buntal fibers, Commonwealth Act No. 147	500,000.00
For the survey and subdivision of public agricultural lands, Commonwealth Act No. 166	P100,000.00
For a new Census, Commonwealth Act No. 170	1,500,000.00
Total	P26,840,000.00

After the transfer of the above stated amount from the proceeds of the coconut oil excise tax, there remains in this fund a surplus of P89,494,490.04, which, together with the estimated current surplus of P49,700,000 in the general fund proper at the end of the current year, will give a total accumulated current surplus of P139,190,000 in the Consolidated General Fund at the end of this year.

The Government is a "going concern" the services of which must continue for an indefinite period of time. Hence, it must have at all times surplus funds enough to maintain confidence in its financial integrity to form the basis for the national credit, and to meet inevitable emergencies arising from public disasters and calamities which happen to all nations in the course of time. For these reasons, it is my opinion that, for the present, the Government of the Commonwealth should maintain a current surplus in its general fund proper of about P50,000,000.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the existence of substantial surplus funds in the Philippine Treasury should not give ground for liberal appropriations and for laxity in expenditures, except for those which are absolutely necessary to meet urgent public needs. On the contrary, I cannot overemphasize the necessity of not only keeping intact whatever surplus reserves we now have, but also of adding thereto any excess collections that may be realized over

the necessary expenditures, in order that the Government may be well prepared financially to meet whatever adverse conditions may arise in the future.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Abolition of Cedula Tax, November 1, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

ABOLITION OF CEDULA TAX

[November 1, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

We are committed by our platform to the revision of our system of taxation so as to make it more equitable and to have it based upon the ability of the taxpayers to pay. Some of our existing revenue laws are very antiquated and highly unfair. It may be said that the burden of taxation in the Philippines rests mainly upon those who can least afford to bear it.

We now have under study and in preparation a plan for the revision of our system of taxation both for the National and local governments. There is, however, one tax so unfair and against which our people have so consistently complained that I do not think it necessary to wait any longer before a definite step is taken for its abolition. I am referring to the cedula tax which I hope will be stricken out from our statute books before the second anniversary of the Government of the Commonwealth.

The cedula tax existed during the Spanish regime; the government of General Aguinaldo did not abolish it altogether but only reduced it; and the Philippine Commission, the majority of whose members were Americans, acting as the sole legislative body for the Islands, imposed the tax at one peso in 1901 and later raised it to its present rate.

In the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention, there were clear indications that said body wanted to abolish the cedula tax by means of a constitutional provision to this effect, but the fear that its abolition might bankrupt the provincial and municipal governments, which are the beneficiaries of this tax, caused the Convention to refrain from abolishing it, going only to the extent of prohibiting the imprisonment of any one for non-payment of the tax. At your first regular session, I did not think it wise to recommend the repeal of the cedula tax law for we were unprepared to cover the loss of revenue that the provinces and municipalities would have suffered thereby. Now, however, we can safely abolish the cedula tax, and do an act of justice to our laboring classes—thus closing also forever a chapter in the history of taxation in our country, that brought no honor to the Government, and caused untold hardships to the majority of our people. When the National Assembly shall have enacted the law abolishing the cedula tax, I shall recommend the appropriation of a sum equal to the amount of revenues that will be lost to the provinces and municipalities from the accumulated surplus of the Consolidated General Fund, to be given to the provincial and municipal governments until a substitute regular source of income that will weigh upon those who can well pay it without undue hardship is found.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on appropriation for Public Improvements in Manila, November 12, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On appropriation for Public Improvements in Manila**

[Delivered on November 12, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I beg to recommend that the sum of P1,000,000 be appropriated from the unappropriated Consolidated General Fund for carrying out public improvements in the City of Manila in the discretion of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications. I do not know of any other city of the size and population of Manila that is so lacking in the necessities and conveniences of modern life for the use of the masses. The City Government is not in a position to finance all urgent projects of this nature and we should extend aid for constructing parks and streets and improving sanitary conditions in certain districts. It is expected that the Secretary of Public Works and Communications will consult with the Mayor and the Municipal Board in planning these new improvements.

I desire to inform the National Assembly that, among the projects for public works which we have under consideration for submission to the National Assembly, as soon as the budget is disposed of, appropriations will be recommended for the construction of the North Port District as well as for the construction and improvement of certain streets that constitute the main highways of communication from the City to the suburbs and the provinces.

Early action on this recommendation is respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on changes in appropriations for the University of the Philippines, November 17, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On changes in appropriations for the University
of the Philippines**

[Released on November 17, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

After consultation with the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines, I am recommending to you radical changes in the Budget, as submitted by me, affecting the appropriations for the University of the Philippines. The Budget, as submitted, conforms to the policies heretofore adopted by the Government in reference to the expenditure of funds allotted to the University of the Philippines, but in the face of the results so far attained I feel that a radical change has to be made in this respect.

It is evident that to achieve the highest efficiency in the conduct of the affairs of the University, full responsibility and corresponding authority must be lodged in some entity. Dispersment of responsibility and authority makes it impossible to place the blame or credit on anyone if and when blame or credit is to be given. Under the law creating the University, the Board of Regents is intended to be the supreme and final authority for the running of the affairs of that institution. Its powers include the creation of colleges and the determination of the curriculum, subject only to the supervision of the Board of Visitors. This intent of the law creating the University of the Philippines has been materially frustrated by certain restrictions and limitations imposed by the Legislature, and by the manner in which public funds appropriated as contribution to the University have been provided. I will not say that the shortcomings of the University of the Philippines, which are obvious, are entirely due, or even mainly due, to these limitations and restrictions, but they have been contributory factors of no mean importance. It is my impression that the Board of Regents, in the face of these restrictions and limitations, all along has felt relieved, to a large extent, of its responsibility for running this institution of learning. I have felt so deeply that the University is not what it should be, and believing it the fault of the Board of Regents, I thought of renovating the appointed Members of the Board. But when I looked over the list of the names constituting the present Board, both appointive and elective, I saw that it would be impossible to improve upon its membership. It is for this reason that I decided to have consultation with the Board of Regents and to seek their advice as to the means to be adopted to improve the situation prevailing in the University and place it in a position to justify its continued existence.

I have no doubt that I am expressing not only my views, but yours as well, when I say that the first and immediate duty of the State is to provide universal primary instruction to girls and boys of school age, and that until such duty shall have been performed fully, the Government subjects itself to the criticism of affording opportunities for higher instruction to people who can afford to pay for their own education while denying primary instruction to hundreds of thousands of the daughters and sons of the poor.

In America, there is no university supported by the Federal Government. There are several state governments that support state universities, but I know of no case where such institutions of higher learning exist supported by the Government where thousands of children do not have the opportunity to acquire primary instruction. In Europe, there are ancient universities created and supported by the national governments, but it will be recalled that these universities were created at a time when democracy was absolutely unknown in Europe.

If there had been no state university upon the inauguration of the Commonwealth, I would have resisted any attempt to create such an institution, supported mainly by the Government, until every girl and boy of school age had an opportunity to receive primary education. But the University of the Philippines is here; the Government has already

invested millions and millions for its buildings and its maintenance, and we are confronted with a fact and not a theory. It would be the height of folly to close that institution now; yet, unless the University can justify its existence by actually rendering a service to the country that private universities cannot render at present, I would favor the abolition of the University. To my mind this service can only be one, and that is to set a high standard for our private universities and colleges and to turn out well trained material that will be outstanding leaders in each field of activity where technical knowledge is required. I have many times stated my position on this matter, namely, I am not interested in seeing thousands upon thousands of graduates from the University of the Philippines whose knowledge, acquired in this institution, cannot even serve as a basis for the hope that, through their own efforts, they may become in time proficient in their chosen professions. I would rather see only a few graduates every year from the University of the Philippines but who have left the University with the character and knowledge that will fit them, by dint of their own efforts, to become leaders of their respective callings.

To accomplish the objects aforementioned, there are certain definite steps which have to be taken:

a. To repeal that portion of Act No. 2672 (Vol. 12, pages 130-131, Public Laws) and of Act No. 2787 in so far as they establish a scale of salaries for the officials, employees, professors, and instructors of the University of the Philippines.

b. The restrictions and limitations prescribed in the Budget as submitted by me in the expenditure of funds allotted to the University of the Philippines should all be eliminated, thereby granting to the Board of Regents of that institution full discretion in the disposition of said funds.

The University of the Philippines has become an integral part of our system of education as the Commonwealth has inherited the system of public instruction from its predecessors. In the Budget for next year, I have recommended a total appropriation of P1,587,947 for the University, which amount is P472,572 more than was voted by the National Assembly for the present year. I have been actuated by strong reasons in making this recommendation.

The University of the Philippines is intended to be our highest seat of learning. It is called upon to set the highest standards in the most important professions. It is to be the mold of the Filipino mind and the great laboratory for the study of the grave social problems which are the preoccupation of our age. It is to produce men of character and wisdom trained in the arts and the sciences, who are to assume leadership in those political and social activities which are vital to the State. As I have pointed out above, unless the University of the Philippines is able to accomplish these aims, it may as well be abolished. The expenditures of the people's money for its maintenance cannot be justified if its academic standards are not to rise higher than those of private universities supported exclusively from tuition fees. In the past few years, the University of the Philippines has been hampered by the reduction of the government appropriation for its support. The sound and promising condition of the treasury justifies a more generous appropriation for this institution.

At this particular time, the country looks up to the University of the Philippines for the technological leadership which it needs in our efforts toward economic development upon the most efficient and scientific bases. Of the essentials in economic progress, we have in abundance natural resources, raw materials, labor, and capital. What the country lacks now and lacks badly are scientific men who are not only informed of the technological advancement achieved in other countries, but are also able to apply this technology to the promotion and development of our own industries, and are capable of contributing to the improvement of scientific knowledge in the world. This is particularly needed in agriculture, chemistry, economics, medicine, and engineering. So far has science conquered nature that today economic supremacy is largely dependent upon technological proficiency. The scale of wages and living standards in different nations are in a large part likewise dependent upon it. We cannot hope to build up a strong and stable economic structure in the Philippines without the assistance of such technical men.

We cannot wait for the training of these men in our country without retarding our economic progress. The Government, therefore, has adopted the policy of bringing in experts that we need from time to time. But this is a temporary arrangement. We must look forward to the training of our own citizens in this field. The spreading of technological knowledge among our own people will promote invention and the growth of industries which otherwise would be neglected. Besides, we need men who in the application of their knowledge will be inspired by

the patriotic urge to promote the peculiar interests of our own country. I believe the University of the Philippines should have every means necessary to enable it to fill this need in our economy.

It is my understanding with the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines, that if my recommendations are approved by the National Assembly, men who have already proven their proficiency in special lines are to be sent abroad for advanced training, study, and investigation. These scholarships are to be undertaken not merely for the purpose of acquiring academic degrees, but particularly to attain definite experience and first hand knowledge in important specific subjects and social problems. In this manner, within a few years, the University will be able to secure the necessary staff to bring its faculty to the level now required by the best universities of the world.

In the meantime, the University will bring to the Philippines the best trained men in the various lines of study to improve its faculty. Under the present laws, these men can be enlisted only if they accept a salary not exceeding P9,000 per year. I have been informed, and my personal knowledge is to the same effect, that university professors of recognized standing cannot be contracted to come to the Philippines for such a salary. For this reason, I recommend the elimination of the limitation proposed in the Budget as to the salary of professors under contract, thereby allowing the Board of Regents discretion in fixing such salary in each case as the circumstances may require.

I also recommend that the item of P125,000 which appears in the Budget for the restoration of salaries, be added to the general fund constituting the aid to the University without binding it exclusively to that purpose. I believe it is proper that this fund be placed at the discretion of the Board of Regents to be used by them in such manner as in their opinion may be most conducive to the welfare of the University. This fund, I am persuaded, could be more properly spent in stimulating original investigation and research and in increasing the salaries of deserving members of the faculty,—of those who devote their time to advanced studies and who show a desire to make their work in the University their life-endavor,—rather than to restore automatically and for all the higher salaries received by them in the past regardless of their degree of efficiency or demonstrated loyalty to the best interests of the University.

I believe that it is most unwise to maintain a uniform standard of salaries for the members of the faculty of the University of the Philippines. Universities of recognized standing in the United States and other countries do not adhere to definite salary schedules. In each case, the governing body determines the policy to be pursued and the salary to be given a professor. The same rule is necessary for the University of the Philippines, if we want to build up a strong faculty that will make of the University not only an institution of the highest academic prestige, but one which will render the utmost service to the nation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Changes in the Budget for 1938, November 19, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
CHANGES IN THE BUDGET FOR 1938

[November 19, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with the National Budget for the fiscal year 1938, which I submitted for your consideration with my budget message of October 30, 1937, I hereby make the following changes or amendments to the said Budget with the request that they be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Appropriation Act for 1938:

1. Increase of P1,400 of item II-4, Illumination and power service, (page 60 of the Budget for 1938), in order that the National Library may have sufficient funds for the expected increased consumption of electric fluid during the year 1938.
2. The Office of the Vice-President of the Philippines shall be separated from the Office of the President of the Philippines and placed after the appropriation for the Office of the President and before the appropriation for the Department of the Interior.
3. To give the General Auditing Office an independent status as contemplated in the Constitution of the Philippines, all the items of appropriation for the General Auditing Office, including sundry expenses and the purchase of furniture and equipment including one auto jitney, shall be segregated from the appropriation for the Office of the President and placed on an independent office after the appropriation for the Department of Labor and before the appropriation for the University of the Philippines.
4. Amendment of the following items for the Philippine Sugar Administration (A-(6), page 117 of the Budget for 1938):

51.	Twenty-four sugar checkers, at P720 per annum each
63.	One clerk
66.	Two messengers at P480 per annum each

so as to read as follows:

51.	Twenty-three sugar checkers, at P720 per annum each
51(a).	One telephone operator
63.	One multigraph operator

66.	One messenger
66(a).	One watchman

This amendment will not increase the amount originally requested.

5. Amendment of the title of item C-IV-7, special appropriations for the Department of Finance, appearing on page 252 of the Budget for 1938, so that the said title shall read as follows:

7. For the necessary expenses of a special agent in foreign countries.

instead of

7. For the necessary expenses of a special agent in China.

This amendment will allow the sending of the special agent to any other foreign country where his services may be needed.

6. Restoration of the 15 per cent reductions in the salaries of two employees payable from the Rice and Corn Fund so that they shall be paid at the rate of P2,400 per annum instead of P2,040 per annum each (Item C-IV-2(c), page 269 of the Budget for 1938).

7. Increase in the salary of one Public Service Commissioner from ¥10,600 to P11,000 (Item D-4)-1, page 312, of the Budget for 1938).

8. Modification of Item B-(5)-95, on page 320 of the Budget for 1938, so that it shall read as follows:

Subsistence of the Director and Assistant Director, at P960 per annum each, accountable monthly notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.

and revival of paragraph 3 on page 836 of the Budget for 1938 (Budget Bill) which was intended to be eliminated. These changes are necessary to authorize the commutation of subsistence of the Director and the Assistant Director of Prisons.

9. Provision of a position of Register of Deeds for the Province of Occidental Misamis with a salary of P1,800 per annum by amending item D-(6)-11 (page 322 of the Budget for 1938) so as to read as follows:

11.	Nine registers of deeds, at P1,800 per annum each
-----	---

10. Increase in the salary of one Commissioner from P10,000 to P11,000 per annum (Item D-(7)-1, page 330, of the Budget for 1938).

11. Increase in the salary of one Judge from P10,000 to P11,000 per annum (Item D-(8)-1, page 333, of the Budget for 1938).

12. Increase of P43,360.00 in item F-II-2, freight, express and delivery service for the Department of Public Works and Communications (page 537 of the Budget for 1938). This is necessary to provide for the discontinuance in 1938 of the 10 per cent reduction in the contract of the Bureau of Posts with the Manila Railroad Company, the increase in the new rates enforced by the said company, and the extension of its service to Ragay, Camarines Sur.

13. Increases in the following items of the appropriation for sundry expenses and purchase of furniture and equipment of the Department of Public Works and Communications to provide for the expenses incident to the commissioning of the C. G. s.s. "Pathfinder":

F-II-2.	Freight, express and delivery service (page 537 of the Budget for 1938)
F-II-6.	Consumption of supplies and materials (page 538 of the Budget for 1938)
F-II-9.	Maintenance and repair of equipment (page 539 of the Budget for 1938)
Total increase	

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

F-III-1.	For the purchase and manufacture of furniture and equipment (page 541 of the Budget for 1938)
----------	---

14. Increase of P2,000 in the item for traveling expenses of personnel for the Office of Adult Education under the Department of Public Instruction. This change will increase the total amount proposed for traveling expenses of personnel of the Department of Public Instruction to P290,600 (Item G-II-1, page 687 of the Budget" for 1938).

15. Increase of P59,126 in item G-II-6, consumption of supplies and materials, for the Department of Public Instruction, page 688 of the Budget for 1938, in order to provide allowances for clothing of the inmates of Culion Leper Colony and other leprosy treatment stations.

16. Increase of P18,000 in item G-II-8, contributions and gratuities, for the Department of Public Instruction, page 689 of the Budget for 1938, in order to provide adequate gratuities for lepers in the Culion Leper Colony and other leprosy treatment stations.

17. Increase of P332,000 in item G-IV-5, page 700 of the Budget for 1938, so that the total of the said item shall become P11,345,500 instead of P11,013,500 only, and insertion of the words "including the purchase of textbooks not to exceed P557,000" between the words "seven" and "to" in the sixth line of the said item. Likewise, the words "including the purchase of necessary textbooks" should be inserted between the words "classes" and "to" in the fourth line of item 6 on page 701 of the Budget for 1938. These changes are desired in order to provide the Bureau of Education with the amount necessary for the purchase of textbooks that may be needed for the year 1938.

18. Provision of the following special appropriations for the Bureau of Education under the Department of Public Instruction, to be placed following item G-IV-13, page 706 of the Budget for 1938:

13-a.	Aid in connection with the Annual National Interscholastic Meet
13-b.	Aid to regional athletic associations

These aids are desired in order to provide the Bureau of Education with the necessary funds for the National Interscholastic Meet and the various regional athletic meets.

19. Amendment of the following items for the Court of Appeals (Superior Courts (2), page 812 of the Budget for 1938):

1.	One Presiding Judge
2.	Ten Appellate Judges, at P11,000 per annum each
4.	One Clerk of Court
5.	One Deputy Clerk

6.	One Reporter
----	--------------

so as to read as follows:

1.	One Presiding Judge
2.	Ten Appellate Judges, at P12,000 per annum each
4.	One Clerk of Court
5.	One Deputy Clerk
6.	One Reporter

20. Amendment of the provision of paragraph 4 of Section 7 of the Budget Bill, appearing on page 830 of the Budget for 1938, by inserting the following additional clause between the words “donation” and “no” in line 32; “and in the case of officers and employees receiving higher rates at the time of the approval of this Act,” so that the limitation of salaries to not more than P12 per day or P300 per month of employees payable from lump sum appropriations may not apply to those who are actually receiving more than the said rates.

21. Restoration of the rates of salary appearing in the 1937 Appropriation Act which were reduced in the Budget to convert their irregular monthly rates into multiples of 10, such reductions having been made whenever the positions are vacant or the incumbents thereof receive salaries that are much lower than the authorized rates for the current year. This will represent an increase of P28,174.90.

22. The foregoing changes and amendments have been decided only after the Budget had been submitted. They are necessary in order to maintain the different public services in as efficient a manner as possible. They will increase the total appropriations for the ordinary operating expenses of the National Government proposed in the Budget for 1938 to P76,889,028.12 and will reduce the estimated unappropriated excess of the estimated regular income over the estimated ordinary expenditures to P3,556,671.88.

The Commissioner of the Budget has been authorized to appear before the Committee on Appropriations and to assist in effecting the changes indicated above.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on immediate enactment of Certain Bills, November 19, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On immediate enactment of Certain Bills**

[Delivered on November 19, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the following measures:

Bill No. 2675.—An Act to appropriate five million pesos to be distributed by the Secretary of Finance among- the provinces, chartered cities, municipalities, and municipal districts on the basis of the yearly average of their shares in the proceeds of the cedula tax collected during the years nineteen hundred and thirty-three, nineteen hundred and thirty-four, nineteen hundred and thirty-five, nineteen hundred and thirty-six, and nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, to compensate the said branches of the Government for the loss from their revenues on account of the abolition of the cedula tax.

Bill No. 2765.—An Act prescribing the form of the Budget and the information that it should contain, and regulating the expenditure of authorized appropriations.

Bill No. 2481.—Ley concediendo a los funcionarios y empleados retirados de acuerdo con la Ley Número Dos mil quinientos ochenta y nueve, tal como está enmendada, los mismos beneficios que gozan los funcionarios y empleados retirados, de conformidad con la Ley Número Cuatro mil cincuenta y uno, tal como está enmendada, enmendando al efecto el artículo cinco de la Ley Número Dos mil quinientos ochenta y nueve, tal como ha sido enmendado por la Ley Número Cuatro mil ciento setenta y siete.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Appropriation for Public Improvements in Manila, November 20, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Appropriation for Public Improvements in Manila**

[Delivered on November 20, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with my message, dated November 12, 1937, recommending that the sum of P1,000,000 be appropriated from the unappropriated Consolidated General Fund for carrying out the public improvements in the City of Manila, I hereby certify for the purposes of article VI, section 12, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Philippines, the necessity of the immediate enactment of Bill No. 2508, entitled “Ley proveyendo una contribución del Gobierno Nacional a la Ciudad de Manila en la suma de un millón de pesos al año.”

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on immediate enactment of Certain Bills, November 20, 1937

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On immediate enactment of Certain Bills**

[Delivered on November 20, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the following measures:

Bill No. 2778.—Ley que fija el cuarto lunes de enero de cada año para la apertura del período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea Nacional; and

Bill No. 2480.—Ley que autoriza el pago de la contribución territorial en la Ciudad de Zamboanga en dos plazos, fija el recargo en un dos por ciento, por cada mes entero de morosidad vencida, sobre el importe de la contribución original adeudada, y autoriza la condonación de la contribución territorial, enmendando al efecto los artículos veintisiete, veintiocho y veintinueve de la Ley Orgánica de dicha ciudad.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Appropriation for Relief of Typhoon Sufferers, November 20, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

APPROPRIATION FOR RELIEF OF TYPHOON SUFFERERS

[November 20, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In view of the damage done by these last *baguios* I recommend that the National Assembly appropriate P500,000 for relief to be spent under the authority of the President.

I certify the urgency of this measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 473, December 18, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**VETOING BILL NO. 473—SPECIFIC PERSONS LIABLE FOR
PROSECUTION FOR CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

[December 18, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 473, entitled “An Act to specify the person or persons liable for prosecution for cruelty to animals, by amending Act Numbered Thirty-five hundred and forty-seven, entitled ‘An Act defining and penalizing cruelty to animals.’”

I cannot approve this bill because under its provisions, the owner of an animal cruelly treated who should have the ultimate responsibility for such occurrence would likely escape criminal liability therefor.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1018, December 18, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**VETOING BILL No. 1018—SALE OF UNGRADED EYEGLASSES
AND SPECTACLES**

[December 18, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am returning Bill No. 1018 of the National Assembly, entitled “An Act to amend section eight hundred and seventeen of the Administrative Code” without my signature.

Throughout the Philippines, many persons are actually engaged in the sale, as merchandise, of ready-made ungraded eyeglasses and spectacles, which does not constitute the practice of the profession of optometrist or optician. The bill above referred to would prohibit the sale of ready-made eyeglasses and spectacles in the City of Manila and in the other chartered cities and in places within the radius of five kilometers from the office, establishment or clinic of a duly registered optometrist and (or) optician, except by a duly registered optometrist and (or) optician, even where no use is made by the seller of the trial case or of practical and objective mechanical devices for the determination of the state of refraction and the accommodation of the vision.

I believe that the sale by any person of ready-made ungraded eyeglasses or spectacles, where no use is made of

the trial case or of practical and objective mechanical devices for the determination of the state of refraction and the accommodation of the vision, does not affect public health. The use of ungraded eyeglasses and spectacles, ordinarily to protect the eye from the sun or dust, is clearly not injurious to health. Therefore, the attached bill would seem to serve no useful public end.

Furthermore, the bill, if enacted into law, would deny the equal protection of the laws, in that, while it absolutely prohibits the sale in the City of Manila and in the other chartered cities of such ungraded eyeglasses and spectacles, except by optometrists and opticians, irrespective of whether or not there is an office, establishment or clinic of a duly registered optometrist and (or) optician within the radius of five kilometers from such cities, it permits the sale of such eyeglasses and spectacles in other parts of the Philippines beyond the radius of five kilometers from the office, establishment or clinic of a duly registered optometrist and (or) optician. There seems to be no reasonable basis for the discrimination against persons now engaged in the sale of eyeglasses and spectacles in the City of Manila and in the other chartered cities or against the inhabitants of the aforesaid cities. It has been held that a statute is void as denying the equal protection of the laws, where, without any reasonable ground of discrimination, it places limitations or restrictions on the right to engage in a particular business or occupation in one portion of the state, but not in other portions.

Finally, the bill does not provide a reasonable period within which persons who are not duly registered optometrists and opticians and who are actually selling ready-made eyeglasses and spectacles under the law now in force might liquidate their business.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1286, December 18, 1937

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**VETOING BILL NO. 1286—ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL
HALL OF FAME**

[December 18, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am disapproving Bill No. 1286, entitled “An Act providing for the establishment of a Philippine National Hall of Fame,” with regret.

While I am in hearty accord with the National Assembly as regards the ultimate purposes of the bill, I have serious doubts as to the adequacy of the means adopted for properly carrying out such a worthy project. Besides, I have very serious objection to the provision of section 2 wherein the authority granted to the President of the Philippines to select and designate any suitable building, portion of a building, or hall belonging to the Philippine Government as the Philippine National Hall of Fame is made subject to the approval of the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The National Assembly had the choice of either designating in the act itself any public building or part thereof to be used as the Philippine National Hall of Fame, or authorizing any executive official of the Government, including the President, to make such designation or to create a committee for this purpose, but I do not wish to establish the precedent of subjecting any act of the President of the Philippines to the approval of any other official of this Government, except as required by the Constitution.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Vetoing Bill No. 1601, December 18, 1937

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**VETOING BILL NO. 1601—FIXING SALARIES OF ELECTIVE
CITY COUNCILORS IN BAGUIO**

[December 18, 1937]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1601, entitled “An Act to amend subsection (*d*) of section twenty-five hundred and fifty and section twenty-five hundred and fifty-two of the Revised Administrative Code.”

Under the law now in force, the salary of the elective members of the city council is fixed by the council itself and included in the yearly budget for the City, which is subject to the approval of the proper Department Head. (Section 2553 (*a*) of the Revised Administrative Code.) At present, the current salary of the councilors is P720 each per annum, thus requiring a total outlay of P2,160 for the three members. The minimum salary provided in the bill is P1,440 per annum for each councilor, or a total of P8,640 per annum for the four elective and two appointive members of the council. This means an immediate increase in the expenses of the City of P6,480 per annum which has to be met with every year without regard to the financial condition of the City. Rigidity is, therefore, substituted for the flexibility allowed by section 2553 (*a*) of the Revised Administrative Code, for under said section the city council, with the approval of the Department Head, may increase or reduce any salary fixed for any fiscal year taking into account the finances of the City.

In this connection it should also be taken into consideration that the position of members of city councils, like that of members of provincial or municipal boards, does not, by its very nature, require the exclusive attention of the incumbents and therefore does not prevent the latter from engaging in their respective professions, occupations or callings. Under the fixed yearly salary plan as proposed in this bill, a member of the city council may continue to receive his salary without performing his duties by absenting himself from the sessions of the council. It is in view of these considerations that a uniform policy has been followed in basing the compensation of members of provincial boards, municipal councils and of city councils on the number of sessions attended. The only exception at present is the City of Baguio, and this is because the present law permits the city council to fix the compensation of its own members, subject to the approval of the Department Head. There can be no question that it would be an improvement in the Charter of the City of Baguio if the compensation of members of the city council were fixed by law on the basis of per diems for sessions actually attended by them, as such members will then have to render actual service in order that they may receive the compensation provided by law.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Manuel L. Quezon, Fourth State of the Nation Address, January 24, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the Revision of the System of Taxation**

[Delivered at the Opening of the Third Session in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, Manila on January 24, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The state of the nation remains practically the same as reported in my annual message to your Honorable Body at the beginning of your last regular session on the 16th of October, 1937.

We are earnestly concerned with social justice. Without a strict application of social justice to all elements of the community, general satisfaction of the people with their government is impossible to achieve. Here, in the just and equitable solution of social problems, is the real test of the sufficiency of democracy to meet present-day conditions of society.

Social justice involves many and varied questions, such as taxation, wages, land ownership, insurance against accidents and old age, etc.

I desire to direct your attention at this time to one subject only—taxation—which we are solemnly committed to revise in order to place the burden upon those who should and can best carry it.

Taxation is imposed in the interest of the nation: to keep peace and maintain order; to repel invasion; to prove the living conditions of the people; to educate them; to promote agriculture, industry and trade.

The power to tax may also be used to prevent the accumulation of vast wealth in a few hands. This is not to deny the right of property of the individual, but it is to affirm that this right may be limited by the State when social well-being demands it. The root of the worldwide discontent among peoples, which gave birth to communism in Russia and which has been at the bottom of every revolution of the last forty years, has been the utter disregard by governments of the social purpose of property. Selfish interests have been allowed to dictate government policies affecting social and economic life.

In the past, taxation has not been concerned with principles of justice and rarely has it been concerned with bettering the people. Rather it has sought only to produce revenues and to place the burdens on the backs of those least able to remonstrate. It has done this by taxes on consumption, on sales, on licenses to engage in business, trade or profession, and by excessive charges on services which should be rendered by the Government and for which only a sufficient charge should be made to cover the cost. Those who rule have not paid their share. They have exempted the wealth they owned and the incomes they enjoyed almost wholly from taxation. This has been true throughout the world. It has been true of the Philippines as well.

Our tax system, unlike our political system, is still a heritage of earlier centuries, out of harmony with those principles which should guide progressive nations today. The Filipino people have one of the most progressive constitutions in the world. That Constitution is built not only on the principle of political equality but also on the added principle of social justice.

It remains for us to parallel our achievement in the realm of political science by a similar achievement in the realm of economic and social justice.

The present system of taxation in the Philippines is a source of the greatest injustice from which our people suffer. It may properly be said that our burdens of taxation rest most heavily upon the masses, and very lightly upon the rich. Bearing in mind the income of the rich as compared to the earnings of the labouring class, it is a fact that the richer the taxpayer the less he contributes proportionately to the maintenance of the Government. The picture of the distribution of taxes in the Philippines is this: The wage earner and the small farmer as a class carry most of the burden, then comes the middle class, and lastly the upper class. This wealthy upper class constitutes a very small percentage of our population.

In your last session you have done away with the one direct tax which was imposed upon the poor in the same amount as upon the rich—the cedula tax. But even after the elimination of this odious tax which accrued exclusively to the provincial and municipal governments, it is still true that as far as the National Government is concerned, its income comes mostly from customs duties, the tax is ultimately paid by the consumer, and in the case of internal revenue taxes, with very few exceptions, the bulk of the tax is also paid by the consumer. Needless to say, if most of these taxes are paid by the consumer, it is the great mass of the people who are carrying the burden.

The extent to which the Commonwealth is supported by the great mass of the people through taxes on consumption is not generally realized. Taxes on consumption are of necessity taken almost entirely from the poor. These taxes are added to costs as are all other elements of the cost. Thus, in 1936 the total revenue of the National Government, including the customs, amounted to approximately P85,000,000. Of this sum less than P5,000,000 came from direct taxes on incomes while the total taxes paid by inheritances and wealth amounted to less than P1,000,000. Deducting incidental revenues and other earnings, there remained P52,500,000 in the form of indirect consumption taxes on the things the people used, and for the most part had to use. They were in the form of customs taxes, excise taxes, license taxes, sales taxes, and similar charges.

The revenues of the provinces and municipalities, excluding contributions from the National Government, amounted to P46,000,000. Except for such taxes on real estate as are ultimately borne by the owners of the real estate, the great bulk of these taxes were consumption taxes or charges on the living costs of the people.

In other words, approximately P100,000,000 have been taken from fifteen million people not according to their ability to pay but according to their need to exist. This burden is equivalent to possibly P40 per family. And this burden is borne by millions of our people whose total family income is between P100 and P200 a year. There is no escape from the fact that the Commonwealth is supported in large part by those who are already on a low margin of subsistence.

In forty years' time we have taken from these classes a sum which approximates the accumulated wealth of the entire Philippines, agricultural as well as industrial. Within the past generation these consumption taxes have rebuilt the Commonwealth. They gave us our docks and harbours, our streets and highways, our schools and public buildings. The taxes from the poor have in fact made possible the Commonwealth which we now enjoy. It is their contributions that have given us security. They have paid for our courts of justice. They have preserved our health. They are maintaining our military establishments. They have made the Philippines a safe and comfortable place in which to dwell. It is the centavos of the millions that have created the conditions which have made our industries possible. Almost alone the masses have built the Commonwealth by their sacrifices. This has been going on for more than three hundred years. It is a system which we inherited from Old Europe, in which a few enjoyed all the privileges while the people did the work and also paid for the support of the state.

It is not social justice alone, it is ordinary justice that demands correction of this age-long injustice.

While in the case of the customs duties, we are not free at this time to introduce radical or even any important change in our laws, we are not placed in the same position with reference to the internal-revenue taxes. We must proceed at once to reduce and, whenever possible, to eliminate altogether, every internal-revenue tax which is passed on ultimately to the consumer, such for instance as the sales tax. The sales tax is not paid by the merchant but by the public who buys the articles for its consumption. The merchants, in paying the sales tax of 11 per cent for every sale that they make, no matter how many times, are only acting as collectors for the Government, and the real person who pays the tax is the last purchaser, the consumer. The sales tax, moreover, is not only unjust to the poor;

it also is injurious to the healthy growth of business. There are historian-economists who attribute the ruin of Spanish industries in the sixteenth century to the sales tax. In the United States, the Federal Government imposes no sales tax, and only a certain number of States impose it. But regardless of how other governments secure their revenues, it remains true nevertheless that the sales tax is unfair to the poor and harmful to the business. I, therefore, recommend the amendment of the sales tax law so as to eliminate completely the sales tax on every article that is of prime necessity and leave it only for luxuries, in which case, the tax should be materially increased. However, in no case should the sales tax be cumulative, but rather it should be paid only once at the source.

Another advantage to the Government in the amendment of the sales tax law as suggested is that there can be no evasion of the payment of the tax as in the past. Nor will there be any need for a large number of internal-revenue collectors and inspectors who, in the performance of their duties, are unavoidably causing annoyance and irritation especially among the small merchants. Many small merchants, insufficiently trained to handle complicated accounts, waste time and energy in keeping their sales books in order. I am sure that the relief which thousands and thousands of small merchants all over the Philippines will receive from the abolition of the cumulative sales tax and of any tax on articles of prime necessity, will in itself compensate, in terms of satisfaction with their Government, for the loss, if any, that the treasury may suffer. I believe, too, that it is in part due to the difficulties that the average small Filipino merchant finds in keeping his books and paying his books and paying his sales tax that the retail trade is not largely in Filipino hands. It is my hope and belief that the abolition of the sales tax will encourage and facilitate the entry of more Filipinos with little capital into the retail business.

There are other internal-revenue taxes that should be abolished or amended, such for instance as the license fees on the various professions. It is evidently unfair that a new lawyer or a new doctor should be made to pay the same amount of license as those most experienced and accredited in the profession they are paying. If it is the preference to keep this tax, at least there should be an exemption for those who have not been in the profession more than five years. In order that the Government may have a record of these practicing professionals, they may be compelled to pay only what is necessary to defray the cost of keeping that record.

There are still other taxes on our cultural life that should be repealed or very materially reduced. One of these is the tax on radio sets which should not exceed P1 a year, except in the case of expensive sets which are luxuries. The radio should be available to every family. It is a means of political contact with their Government. It is a carrier of news, by which the people may be informed as to what is going on in the world. Through the radio adult education is possible. Through it, music and drama can be disseminated in every barrio. By means of the radio, police administration is made easier, and property and life made more secure. To tax such an instrument by an almost prohibitive charge to the poor is as indefensible as a prohibitive tax on the daily press.

In the case of the market licenses, I recommend that the National Assembly enact a law prohibiting the municipalities from collecting market and slaughterhouse fees in excess of what is necessary to pay for their maintenance and upkeep. If, however, the municipality is still in debt for the construction of its market, it may be permitted, if deemed necessary, to collect higher taxes only until such cost has been fully recovered.

The foregoing recommendations will mean a serious reduction in the income of the Government which we cannot afford to leave uncovered. Fortunately, there are many sources from which we can raise new taxes without causing any injustice to those who will have to pay, for we must see to it that these new taxes are just and fair, that they do not discourage initiative in sound business enterprises. Indeed, my very recommendation that the sales tax and licenses be done away with is in line with our purpose not to allow taxation to retard the proper economic development of the country nor to jeopardize the confidence of business in us.

In your first regular session, you passed an act increasing the rates of our income tax, but the most cursory examination of the income tax paid in the Philippines both by corporations and individuals as compared with the income tax paid in other countries shows that we are practically imposing a nominal income tax. The United States is not the country that imposes the highest income tax, yet as compared with America, the income tax in the Philippines is but a trifle. Following is a comparative statement of the rates of income tax levied in the United States and in the Philippines.

**COMPARATIVE TABLES OF INCOME TAXES UNDER THE
FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAW AND THE PHILIPPINE
INCOME TAX LAW (AS OF 1936)**

			United States
Exceeding	Not Exceeding	Bracket	Rate Per cent
P4000	P6000	P2000	4
6000	8000	2000	5
8000	10000	2000	6
10000	12000	2000	7
12000	14000	2000	8
14000	16000	2000	9
16000	18000	2000	11
18000	20000	2000	13
20000	22000	2000	15
22000	26000	4000	17
26000	30000	4000	19
30000	32000	2000	19
32000	38000	2000	21
38000	44000	2000	24
44000	50000	2000	27
50000	56000	2000	31
56000	62000	2000	35
62000	68000	2000	39
68000	70000	2000	43
70000	74000	4000	43
74000	80000	2000	47
80000	90000	10000	51
90000	100000	10000	55
100000	110000	10000	58
110000	140000	30000	58
140000	150000	10000	58
150000	170000	20000	60
170000	200000	30000	60
200000	230000	30000	62
230000	250000	20000	62
250000	260000	10000	64
260000	300000	40000	64
300000	360000	60000	66
360000	400000	40000	66
400000	420000	20000	68
420000	480000	60000	68
480000	500000	20000	68
500000	540000	40000	70
540000	600000	60000	70
600000	750000	150000	70
750000	1000000	250000	72

1000000	1400000	400000	73
1400000	1800000	400000	73
1800000	2000000	200000	73
2000000	2200000	200000	74
2200000	5000000	2800000	74
Over	5000000	-----	75

It should be borne in mind that besides the income tax which corporations and individuals in the United States pay to their Federal Government, they still have to pay income tax to their respective States. In the Philippines, however, the income tax is paid only to the National Government.

I advise against raising the income tax in the Philippines to anything near what is being collected in the United States. We are in the formative period of our national economy and we should not discourage the investment of capital. But we must increase the income tax because it is inexcusably low. Moreover, this is the time to adopt the policy of avoiding the accumulation of enormous wealth in a few hands and to force the return of excessive income to the public through the medium of government services supported by these taxes. It is in the case of corporations. Inheritance and income taxes that the Government must bear in mind the need of reverting to the nation large amounts of wealth that may be accumulated in a few hands. From the increase collections accruing to the National Government from the additional income tax that we contemplate imposing, an adequate proportion should be set aside for the provincial and municipal governments.

It is my firm belief that if the recommendations made in this message are carried out by the National Assembly, we shall have gone far in our efforts to lay down the foundations of a nation wherein each citizen will contribute his part in the maintenance of the Government in proportion to his ability or resources. As we reduce the burden that is being unduly placed upon the masses of our people, on the one hand, and give them the wage that they are entitled to earn, on the other, we shall ultimately raise the standard of living as we reduce its cost, and thereby increase the purchasing power of the wage earner.

We are liable to forget the fact that the business of the country does not come from great incomes that a few individuals residing in that country make, but from the earning power of the masses.

I hope that this Honorable Body will enact the laws herein recommended early in this session. We have talked enough of social justice. Even the walls have heard our speeches. We have made a good start. We have raised the wages of all government labourers. We have abolished the cedula tax. But we have not done enough. We have only begun. Now we are fully prepared to act and we must act at once, if our people are to continue placing their confidence for the remedy of the social evils which embitter their life entirely in our hands. The last general elections have proven beyond question that the people have wholeheartedly and enthusiastically approved of our avowed policies. The City of Manila, which, like every large city in the world, is usually in the opposition by large majorities, has voted practically for the whole Nacionalista ticket, the election of two councillors from the opposition being purely a vote for the individual rather than for the party to which each belongs. As for the rest of the country, all the newly elected governors are Nacionalistas; only one or two provincial board members and an occasional mayor belong to the opposition.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly: The time to act is now. Deeds and not words is what our people want. We dare not disappoint them.

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Public Works Program, February 1, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on the Public Works Program**

[Released on February 1, 1938]

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

The construction of local roads is necessary for the social and economic welfare of the rural districts, since they will facilitate the marketing of farm products, promote education and afford means of social intercourse with the centers of population.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I beg to submit herewith, for the consideration of your Honorable Body, a public works program (with the usual draft of the bill for public works), for carrying out public improvements over a period of not to exceed four years and including public buildings, artesian wells, drainage works, hospitals, public dispensaries, health resorts, national and local roads, flood control works, portworks, telegraph, cable and radio communication facilities, and other miscellaneous projects. It is contemplated that a total appropriation of P92,271,800 will be invested in this program from the following sources of the National Government:

1.	Excise tax on coconut oil collected in the United States
2.	National revenues collected in the Philippines
3.	Portworks fund
	Total

Accompanying this message is an explanatory note giving detailed information concerning each project.

In recommending this public works program which is without precedent either in its amount or in its scope, I have taken into consideration not only the financial condition of the Government but also the possible effect of such comparatively high expenditures of cash upon the national economy.

We are in a position to meet these proposed obligations on the basis of the most conservative principles of sound government finance. No recurring expenditures are recommended that cannot be provided for from current and ordinary income of the Government. Expenditures for public improvements which will better the health and living conditions of the people and promote the economic development of the country are to be covered from the excise tax collected in the United States. With the exception of local roads, the appropriations requested are based on estimates for completing all projects included in the program. Since sufficient funds are now at the disposal of the National Government for financing this program, all projects included can be completed, if authorized, even if, for some reason, the income from the excise tax should be discontinued.

As you will see, when the budget of receipts and expenditures for 1939 is presented, there will be an estimated current surplus of P3,000,000 at the end of 1939, and also that the accumulated current surplus will hardly be touched in carrying out this proposed program of public improvements.

We must bear in mind in authorizing appropriations that will impose new or future obligations upon the Government that the excise tax collected in the United States will come to an end when independence is granted.

In preparing this program consideration has been given to the possibility that there might be a tendency for a rise in the cost of commodities in making these unusual Government outlays, and for that reason it is planned to spend the large appropriations recommended, not in one or two years, but in not less than three nor more than four. Fortunately, the Government Cement Plant will soon be equipped to produce all the cement that will be required and it is understood that most of the other construction materials can be purchased locally. If there should be an unreasonable increase in the prices of materials that are not produced locally, the Government is in a position to control prices by making direct importations for governmental purposes or by having the National Development Company go into the import business. In any event, I am convinced that the projects recommended should be accomplished now that we have the money to finance them, if the improvement of living conditions and the economic development of the country are not to be further delayed.

You will note that no provision has been made for school buildings. This is because in your last session you appropriated P5,050,000 for that purpose, and it will take the whole year of 1938 to spend that amount.

The Department of Public Instruction is making a thorough study of the expenditures required to provide the municipalities and barrios with additional school buildings to house all the children who seek public education. At the first regular session of the National Assembly in 1939, it is believed that more than P12,000,000 will have to be appropriated for that purpose.

In this connection, I desire to inform you that under the provision of existing law we shall proceed to build the Government Center buildings at Wallace Field as fast as the plans for the same can be prepared. We will soon start to construct the proposed building for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce which is most urgently needed because of the valuable records, particularly those affecting property titles, which should be preserved. Plans are also being prepared for the proposed Capitol building proper.

You will find in this program projects for additional buildings, and other facilities required for national defense purposes. Every centavo spent on these projects will be taken exclusively from the General Fund. The regular program of port improvement and the construction of aids to navigation and landing fields will be financed with the special Port Works Fund, in accordance with Act No. 3592, as amended. The usual period of two years has been allowed for the expenditure of the General and Port Works Funds.

In preparing this program for public works, careful consideration has been given to the numerous requests and recommendations received from the different branches of the Government, including municipal councils, provincial boards and members of the National Assembly, and it is believed that provision has been made for the more important projects, taking into consideration the funds that can be made available at this time. However, I wish to invite your special attention to the proposed appropriations for the improvement of sanitation, for additional hospital facilities, and for the construction of roads.

SANITATION

The furnishing of safe drinking water to those people who are now dependent upon unreliable sources of supply is without doubt the most important measure the Government can undertake at present for improving sanitation and health conditions. However, it has been unnecessary to include an appropriation for the construction of waterworks in this program, as there is now pending in that body a proposed legislation (Bill No. 2766), introduced during your second session, which would increase the Revolving Fund authorized by Commonwealth Act No. 125 by P5,000,000 and liberalize the provisions of that Act so as to facilitate the financing and construction of water supply systems. I recommend that Bill for your favorable consideration. Provision has been made for continuing the

program of drilling artesian wells in those localities where it is not economically feasible to construct water supply systems at present.

Improvement of Manila Drainage.—Only about one-third of the City of Manila has been provided with a proper system of drainage and the remaining part is dependent upon sea-level esteros or canals. Most of these esteros are inadequate because of poor alignment and insufficient capacity, thus making it impossible to maintain sanitary conditions in the districts affected. It is proposed that these very unsatisfactory conditions be remedied by straightening, widening and paving those esteros that are necessary for drainage purposes and by filling in those that may be dispensed with. The work will also involve the construction of some new drains, especially in the districts of Sampaloc and Tondo, to provide more direct outlets to the sea, and the improvement of the Pasig River channel in Santa Ana District. This work is not only urgently important for improving sanitation and for abating the mosquito nuisance, but will afford relief to a large number of laborers who are in need of employment. Proper drainage will also enable the city authorities to enforce more effectively the Lowland Filling Act.

HOSPITALS

There are still a number of provinces where the inhabitants do not have ready access to modern hospital facilities, which is a serious handicap in improving general health conditions. Additional buildings are also required in some of the provinces that now have very limited hospital facilities. As you are aware, Act No. 3114, as amended, obligates the provinces to contribute from 30 to 40 per cent of the cost of constructing and equipping provincial hospitals, and since it has been difficult and practically impossible in some cases for many provinces to finance projects under this policy, it is recommended that said Act be further liberalized whereby the contribution of the National Government for construction and equipment will be increased to 75 per cent of the estimated cost of projects. It is believed, however, that the present provisions of law that obligate the National Government to share the cost of maintenance and operation of provincial hospitals for a period not to exceed ten years is reasonable and should not be modified.

Additions to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila are urgently needed to meet the present demands made on that institution. This hospital not only serves the City of Manila, but the adjoining provinces of Central Luzon as well. The National Psychopathic Hospital near Manila should likewise be enlarged in order to provide much needed additional space for accommodating the insane. This institution is now in a crowded condition and is not in a position to admit many deserving cases from the provinces.

ROADS

National Highways.—The greatest opportunity for the further economic advancement of the Philippines lies in the opening up and settlement of rich agricultural lands that are now inaccessible. By far, the largest areas of such lands are located on the Island of Mindanao, where climatic conditions are especially favorable for growing a variety of agricultural products, which should find a ready demand in the world's markets. There are also extensive areas of undeveloped lands on other islands, notably northern Luzon, Mindanao, Samar, Leyte, southern Negros, Palawan, and Panay. The first and most essential requirement for opening up and settling these lands is the construction of roads. A four-year program has been prepared for the construction of these national highways, which calls for a total expenditure of P27,200,000, of which about one-half would be invested in Mindanao. The carrying out of the program in Mindanao will provide a system of primary or trunk roads interconnecting all the provinces of that Island and traversing the best of the undeveloped regions. It will also afford an opportunity for thousands of settlers from less favored localities to become economically independent and will likewise enhance the advancement of the non-Christian inhabitants. It is unnecessary to point out the advantages of such a road system for the maintenance of law and order.

The program for the construction of national highways in localities other than Mindanao has been carefully studied, and it is believed that each project is fully justified by the economic benefits that may be expected. In some cases, these projects will provide much needed interprovincial or intercoastal communication, as well as open up rich undeveloped districts.

Local Roads.—The construction of local roads is necessary for the social and economic welfare of the rural districts, since they will facilitate the marketing of farm products, promote education and afford means of social intercourse with the centers of population.

Heretofore, it has not been possible for the National Government to give much assistance to the local governments in the construction of roads in the rural districts due to insufficient revenues. On the other hand, neither the provinces nor the municipalities have been able to finance the construction of such roads from their meager resources. Thanks to the excise tax collected in the United States, the National Government is now in a position to help the local governments in this matter; but it must be remembered that this source of income of the National Government is temporary in character and that the time will soon come when revenues from this source will come to an end. Therefore, if the construction of these roads in the rural districts is to be of permanent value to the people living in those districts, it is necessary that the National Assembly authorize the provincial governments to provide some means whereby the maintenance of these local roads may be assured. Your attention is invited to the fact that in many provinces the Road and Bridge Fund, including the direct aid received by provinces under the Motor Vehicle and Gasoline Tax Laws, is hardly sufficient to cover the expenses for the maintenance of their existing road systems. Furthermore, the National Government is not in a position to increase the aid now granted for the maintenance of provincial or local roads, since it has assumed full responsibility for the construction, maintenance and improvement of the designated system of national roads.

Concrete Pavements.—The concrete pavements thus far constructed have amply demonstrated their utility and economy through reduced maintenance costs. The construction of such pavements, however, is only justified on those roads subjected to excessively heavy traffic and when the high cost of maintaining the existing macadam, or asphalt surfacing, warrants the necessary initial investment. For these reasons, it is recommended that the sum of P10,000,000 be appropriated for the construction of concrete pavements on those sections of national roads which are excessively expensive to maintain because of traffic conditions. The program prepared for this work contemplates that this appropriation will be expended over a period of four years.

National Roads for Manila.—To facilitate the expansion of the City of Manila, in accordance with approved development plans, to provide more ready access to the suburbs and to permit the acquisition and development of parks contiguous thereto, an appropriation of P1,500,000 is recommended for the construction of a circumferential road around the City of Manila from the south end of the Taft Avenue Extension to the Balintawak Monument, via Welfareville, Camp Murphy, and San Francisco del Monte. As you are aware, the suburbs of Manila are being rapidly subdivided and developed and it is important that the construction of main traffic roads of this nature be undertaken in advance of the inevitable rise in real estate values, in order that rights-of-way and adequate park sites may be acquired at reasonable costs.

Likewise, the widening and improvement of the Manila–San Juan Road, including Aviles and Sta. Mesa Streets, is urgently necessary to relieve traffic congestion and facilitate access to the rapidly growing suburbs east of Manila.

FLOOD CONTROL

The extensive damage to agricultural lands, railroad lines, highways and bridges and numerous other public and private properties by floods in the Agno and Pampanga River Systems has been the subject of much investigation and consideration in the past, but the Government has only been in a position to finance isolated works which have afforded some local relief. While I am informed that the complete control of these large rivers is not economically practicable, it appears that present conditions can be vastly improved by the construction of certain features of the proposed control works, which will protect the towns endangered and greatly minimize crop losses and delays in railway and highway traffic. Estimates prepared by the Bureau of Public Works show that P5,000,000 can be expended to advantage over a four-year period in each of these river systems for the construction of partial control works, and that with the expenditure of these sums effective results may be attained.

Provision has also been made for a large number of proposed minor river and sea protection works that are pending construction.

IMPROVEMENT OF TELEGRAPH, CABLE, AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

There is urgent need for improving and modernizing our electrical communication facilities, which will involve the replacement of defective submarine cables and telegraph lines; the replacement of old and obsolete equipment; the establishment of new radio or telegraph stations in various places; and the construction and equipping of more effective radio sending and receiving stations in Manila.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pasig River Bridge.—The necessity of a combination highway and railroad bridge over the lower Pasig River in Manila to improve the port terminal facilities has been realized for many years. This necessity has been recently accentuated by the increasing business of the port and traffic congestion in the business districts. Furthermore, with the transfer of the Arrastre Service to the Manila Railroad Company, full advantage may now be taken of direct rail connections in facilitating the handling of cargo. This project is also intimately connected with the development of the proposed North Port District. It is planned to construct a lift-bridge in order not to interfere with the use of the lower Pasig River by interisland shipping.

Reclamation of North Port District.—The Government has had under consideration projects for the improvement of living conditions in the slums of Manila, especially in the Tondo District, for some years. In 1934, the Philippine Legislature authorized under Act No. 4184 an appropriation of P250,000 for the construction of tenement houses in that district but these funds have remained largely unexpended for the reason that the amount available was insufficient for acquiring an adequate site and constructing a sufficient number of buildings to effectively solve the problems. It is now proposed to set aside an appropriation of P2,500,000 for reclaiming approximately 200 hectares of foreshore land in the North Port District, adjoining the San Nicolas and Tondo Districts and to reserve about one-half of the area for parks and housing purposes. The remaining area, along the new water-front, would be used for industrial or manufacturing purposes. In addition to providing better living conditions for a large number of people, this reclamation project is also the first step in the development of the proposed North Harbor.

Special legislation will be recommended creating a housing commission for administering the area to be reserved for housing purposes and such additional areas as may be acquired for those purposes, and setting aside an appropriation to be used as a revolving fund for financing the construction of suitable houses to eliminate existing slum conditions.

Manila Airport.—The National Assembly, recognizing the importance of having a central airport near Manila for the development of local aviation, and to afford facilities for overseas air service, has already authorized an initial appropriation of P300,000 for its construction. Plans that have been prepared for this project contemplate making provision for accommodating both land and sea planes. The construction of this project involves the reclamation of approximately 120 hectares of foreshore land adjacent to the South Harbor, the building of the necessary runways, the extension of the Dewey Boulevard southward to provide access to the airport and the erection of the necessary terminal facilities. An appropriation of P1,500,000 has been recommended for the construction of the necessary retaining walls and extension of the Boulevard, in order that dredge spoil from the maintenance and improvement of the South Harbor may be utilized for filling purposes.

National Park Roads.—A number of national parks have been reserved, and, in order to make them available for the use and enjoyment of the public, an appropriation is recommended for the construction of the necessary roads and trails and simple conveniences for their development.

Tagaytay Townsite.—It has been clearly demonstrated by observation made by the Weather Bureau and other Government offices that the Tagaytay Ridge offers a very favorable site for the development of a health and recreation center. With this in view, an appropriation is recommended for carrying out initial construction of streets, parks, public utilities, and buildings, including the acquisition of the necessary land that will be required for public purposes. The proposed townsite is far more readily accessible from Manila and other large centers of population in Central Luzon than Baguio, and, for that reason, will afford a large number of people an opportunity to take advantage of its invigorating climate and picturesque location.

It will be noted that out of the total appropriations for public works herein recommended P53,000,000, or more than one-half, will go to the construction of national highways and local roads. I have recommended this very large outlay for the construction of roads because I am convinced that it is one of the best social and economic investments that we can make. These roads will facilitate intercommunication amongst our people, thus fostering national solidarity. It will enable large undeveloped regions of the country to be developed and thus make available the dormant wealth of our national resources. It will convert into reality our dream of populating Mindanao, building new cities there and wresting from the remaining virgin regions riches not now used and enjoyed by our people. In fine, the investment of these P53,000,000 will mean increased prosperity for the Filipino people and the concomitant improvement of living conditions and general well-being. The immediate effect of this program of road building will be to give general employment to the masses of the people, since fully 80 per cent of the cost of roads is for labor.

In view of the desirability of carrying out many of these public works projects as soon as possible, I commend this program to your early and favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Participation in the New York World's Fair and the Golden Gate International Exposition, February 2, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR AND
THE GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION**

[February 2, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines has been invited to participate in the New York World's Fair to be held in 1939 in the City of New York to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the inauguration on April 30, 1789, of George Washington as the first President of the United States and the establishment of the Federal Government in the City of New York, the first capital of the Nation, and also in the Golden Gate International Exposition to be held simultaneously in 1939 in the City of San Francisco to portray a Pageant of the Pacific. The first is to feature industry and commerce mainly, while the latter is to feature the arts and culture and social progress in the Pacific countries. These two expositions offer a unique opportunity for the Philippines to educate the world in general, and the American public in particular, regarding our arts and culture, our social, political, and industrial progress, and the development of our natural resources.

Obviously, it will be to our advantage to take part in these expositions as the cities where they will be held are the metropolitan centers of millions of population and the foreign visitors from Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands and Commonwealths will no doubt also count millions of people. We can not afford to miss this splendid opportunity to display and portray to the world our country's progress, socially, politically, economically, and culturally. At the same time, our participation in these expositions will strengthen the ties of friendship and good will which bind the Filipino people with the American people.

I, therefore, urge you to enact such legislation as may be necessary to enable the Philippines to participate in the World's Fair in New York City and in the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco, California. It is estimated that two million pesos will be needed to permit the Philippines to put up presentable exhibits at these expositions. I recommend that this amount be appropriated for the purpose, to be taken from such portion of the consolidated general fund in the Philippine Treasury derived from the proceeds of the coconut oil excise tax collected in the United States as may not be otherwise appropriated.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Creation of positions for two Auxiliary Judges in the Court of Industrial Relations, February 4, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**CREATION OF POSITIONS FOR TWO AUXILIARY JUDGES IN
THE COURT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

[February 4, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In your first regular session, you approved an Act creating a Court of Industrial Relations empowered to fix the minimum wages for laborers and the maximum rental to be paid by tenants and to take cognizance, for purposes of prevention, arbitration, decision, and settlement of any industrial or agricultural dispute causing or likely to cause a strike or lockout, arising from differences between capital and labor or landlord and tenant as regards wages, shares or compensation, hours of labor, or conditions of tenancy or employment. For this purpose, you provided for a Judge to preside over the Court.

The creation of the Court was decided upon in view of the existence of problems affecting the relations between labor and capital or landlord and tenant. The work entrusted to the Court has increased since the approval of the Act not only because of the industrial development of the country and the growing consciousness of the laborers and tenants of their just rights, but also because of the desire of the Government to correct as speedily as possible any reported unfairness in the treatment of labor as a means to carry out the program of social justice now being undertaken by the Administration.

A Court with only one judge presiding is clearly inadequate to meet the problems presented before it. Therefore, I recommend that necessary legislation be enacted to create positions for two auxiliary judges in the Court of Industrial Relations who shall hear cases by designation of the Judge of the Court, providing at the same time the necessary appropriation therefor.

Pursuant to the provisions of article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the bill designed to carry into effect the above objective.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Report on the Lian Estate and Disposition of Expropriated Estates, February 7, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REPORT ON THE LIAN ESTATE AND DISPOSITION OF
EXPROPRIATED ESTATES**

[February 7, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message to this body on the opening of its second session, I informed you that the committee which I created to look into the problems regarding the acquisition of big landed estates would make its report on or before November 15, 1937, and I promised to forward same to you. Conformably with this promise, I have the honor to submit to you for your consideration a partial report from the committee—its report on the Lian Estate in the Province of Batangas.

As you will observe from this report, the committee set upon its task in a painstaking and thorough way. I have instructed it to proceed with its investigation of other big estates, because I am informed that conditions existing in the different haciendas are not similar. I am informed for instance, that in some of the estates, the tenants have been led to believe by irresponsible leaders that the lands they are occupying belong to them, in spite of the fact that the Torrens titles therefore are in the name of other persons or corporations; that the Government will take the lands from the registered owners and will turn over the ownership to the present occupants either gratuitously or with a discount of fifty per cent.

I feel that there is need to inform these people of the real situation. Our Constitution requires that estates expropriated for the purpose of distribution in small lots to the people shall be sold at cost. It is feared that if the erroneous conviction of the people in some of these estates is not corrected, they may later on refuse to pay anything to the Government. Although we are committed in a general way to the purchase by the Government of big estates, we should not buy any estate from which financial loss is sure to follow. And the Government will not purchase any estate simply because the tenants thereof have shown a defiant attitude towards any efforts on the part of the authorities concerned to solve the problems involved. People who are prone to take the law into their hands and who have little respect for law and order are not the ones who will always fulfill their contractual obligations.

Before the close of the present session and after I have received further reports from the Landed Estates Survey Committee, I hope to be able to submit for your consideration a more detailed plan for the solution of the problems caused by the ownership of big estates.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on National Budget for 1939 and enactment of a Salary Standardization Law, February 7, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 1939 AND ENACTMENT OF A
SALARY STANDARDIZATION LAW**

[February 7, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of section 9, article VI, of the Constitution and of Commonwealth Act No. 246, I have the honor to submit to you herewith the National Budget for the fiscal year 1939.

The total estimated income for 1939 accruing to the general fund proper has been placed at P79,256,900. This amount is P1,188,800 less than the total estimated income of P80,445,700 for the current year, and P16,990,063.12 lower than the total collections realized in 1937, which reached the amount of P96,246,963.12, the highest income for any year ever recorded in the financial history of the Philippine Government. Considering the collections of 1937, this estimate of income for 1939 is conservative, allowance having been made for a possible decrease in the revenue collections from the sales tax on articles of prime necessity, abolition of which has been recommended in my last regular message, and for any adverse effect on our national economy on account of the prevailing unsettled conditions in the Far East and other parts of the world.

In addition to the estimated income above stated, there will accrue to the Philippine Treasury the additional income that is derived from the coconut oil excise tax and the expected revenue from the sugar processing tax to be collected in the United States during the current year. It is estimated that at least a total of P45,000,000 will be received from this source—P30,000,000 from the coconut oil excise tax and P15,000,000 from the sugar processing tax.

The 1939 budget calls for a total appropriation of P79,173,369.40, consisting of P76,403,819.40 for ordinary expenditures chargeable to current ordinary income, and P2,769,550 for extraordinary expenditures, of which P740,000 is to be taken from the accumulated current surplus in the general fund proper, and the remaining P2,029,550 from the coconut oil excise tax fund.

You will note that, with the exception of some items, the need for which is not expected to recur in 1939, the proposed appropriations provided in the accompanying budget are similar to those authorized by the 1938 Appropriation Act. This is due to the fact that only one month of the current year has elapsed and, for obvious reasons, the different departments, bureaus and offices of the Government are not yet in a position to determine what changes in their appropriations they should recommend for the year 1939. I, therefore, intend to submit to you at a later date such modifications of the 1939 Budget as may be found necessary after the different heads of departments

and chiefs of bureaus and offices shall have had a reasonable length of time within which to ascertain the needed changes in their respective appropriations.

I am glad to be able to report to you that the condition of the finances of the Commonwealth Government continues to stand on a stable foundation. At the close of the fiscal year 1937, the general fund proper had an unappropriated current surplus of P58,965,108.49. In the budget for 1938, it has been estimated that the excess of ordinary income over ordinary expenditures for this year will reach P3,232,135.88, and that for 1939, as shown in the accompanying budget, will amount to P2,853,080.60.

The coconut oil excise tax fund had an unappropriated current surplus of P86,984,618.58 on December 31, 1937. In my message of February 1, 1938, recommending the appropriation of P92,271,800 for carrying out a four years' public works program, I proposed that P85,573,600 thereof be taken from the coconut oil excise tax fund, P4,423,200 from the general fund proper, and the remaining P2,275,000 from the port works fund.

In the preparation of the annual budgets, a great deal of difficulty is encountered in determining the rates of salaries that should be provided for the different positions in the government service. There being no salary standards fixed by law for the great majority of the positions, salary rates have heretofore been fixed more or less arbitrarily by the heads of departments and chiefs of bureaus and offices concerned. Under this arrangement, what is considered by the head of a department today as a salary rate commensurate with the importance of a position under him may be considered inadequate or excessive by his successor tomorrow. Consequently, when the salary rates now provided for the different positions in the Government are viewed from the standpoint of their relative importance, glaring inequalities immediately come to one's notice. In some cases, employees with comparatively high salaries are doing work of minor importance and with limited responsibility, while in other cases, employees with meager pay are being required to perform important functions of greater responsibility. Furthermore, as there is now no maximum limit of the salary rate that can be provided for any position, many government employees hold the wrong notion that they are entitled to annual salary increases, unmindful of the fact that the salary rates they are receiving may already be equal to, or more than, the maximum rates that are considered commensurate with the importance of the functions they are performing. This anomalous situation can only be remedied by the adoption of a sound salary standardization plan. The Government Survey Board has prepared a plan for the classification of the positions and the standardization of the salaries of the Government personnel, which I consider adequate and satisfactory. I am submitting the said plan to you for your consideration. I earnestly recommend the early enactment in this session of an appropriate salary standardization law.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on additional appropriation for the acquisition of homesite in Haciendas, February 8, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
HOMESITES IN HACIENDAS**

[February 8, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

During your first regular session, you enacted Commonwealth Act No. 20, authorizing the President of the Philippines to order the institution of expropriation proceedings or to enter into negotiations for the purpose of acquiring portions of large landed estates used as homesites and reselling them at cost to their bonafide occupants. Since the enactment of this Act, the technical personnel appointed to carry out the provisions thereof have, jointly with the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, been making investigations into the different haciendas in order to determine which of these haciendas should be purchased for homesite purposes, the area and the approximate cost thereof and other data that are necessary prior to their acquisition.

As a result of the investigations made into these haciendas, the Government has decided to file cases in the proper courts for the expropriation of homesites in the haciendas of Lian in Batangas, San Pedro de Tunasan in Laguna and Dinalupihan in Bataan, after the necessary survey and subdivision thereof have been made. The homesites in these haciendas involve over two thousand heads of families, and it is expected that after the final decision of the court in these cases, the heads of families concerned will be given the opportunity to be the owners of their homes and their residential lots in which they and their forbears have been born and raised.

Other haciendas are being investigated and surveyed with a view to their acquisition for homesites for the tenants residing therein. Upon the filing, however, of a case for the expropriation of an hacienda, the law requires the deposit with the provincial treasurer of a sum equivalent to a reasonable purchase price of the lots, as fixed by the court, in order that the Government may enter immediately upon the land. To cover the deposits representing the approximate purchase prices of the homesites within these haciendas, for which cases in court have already been filed, a good portion of the one million pesos appropriated under Commonwealth Act No. 20 has already been obligated. In view thereof, the Government can not proceed to the filing of other cases in court due to the lack of sufficient funds for the purpose intended by the Homesite Act.

In order to enable the Government to fully carry out the purpose of Commonwealth Act No. 20, which is to enable the tenants in the landed estates to found homes of their own, I recommend that the National Assembly appropriate an additional sum of P2,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, which amount may be taken from the proceeds of the excise tax on coconut oil accruing to the Philippine Treasury.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Legislation Confirming the International Agreement regarding the Regulation of Production and Marketing of Sugar, February 10, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

LEGISLATION CONFIRMING THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE REGULATION OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF SUGAR

[February 10, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to forward to you a copy of the International Agreement Regarding the Regulation of Production and Marketing of Sugar with a protocol concerning transitional measures, signed in London on May 6, 1937. This Agreement was adopted at an international conference of sugar producing and consuming countries, which was called with a view to establishing and maintaining an orderly relationship between the supply of and demand for sugar in the world market. Both the Agreement and the protocol were signed in respect of the Commonwealth of the Philippines by a delegate representing the Commonwealth in the United States delegation.

In transmitting the Agreement to the United States Senate, which consented to its ratification on December 20, 1937, the President of the United States declared that after the action that that body may have taken on the same, action by the local National Assembly will be necessary to implement the commitments made thereunder by the Commonwealth, before he (the President) may be in a position to ratify it. It is, therefore, now incumbent upon our Government, through the National Assembly, to enact the necessary legislation confirming the commitments made by the Philippines under the Agreement.

It is a matter of great practical importance that the National Assembly give consideration to this question at the earliest possible date. You are all aware of the various means undertaken by the Governments of the United States and the Commonwealth of the Philippines to limit, control and allot the quantity of sugar which may be exported to the United States, produced and sold for domestic consumption and held as stocks for reserve. These measures were adopted to restrict and regulate the production of sugar in the Philippines which had reached such a degree of development that the inevitable existence of a huge surplus of unmarketable sugar was once feared, a situation which would have constituted a serious menace to the happiness and well-being of those engaged in the industry.

Confronted with the same problem of overproduction and lack of coördination between supply and demand, the governments of twenty-two sugar producing and consuming countries collaborated together in an international agreement by which the United States and the Commonwealth of the Philippines, through their duly constituted representatives, undertake to limit the access of Philippine sugar to the free markets of the world and to establish certain limitations as to stocks of sugar which may be accumulated in the Philippines. The Agreement is a necessary complement to our existing legislation covering sugar limitation and control.

I, therefore, urge the immediate passage of the required legislation to expedite definite entry of the Agreement into force and to enable the United States and the Commonwealth of the Philippines to cast their votes in the next meeting of the International Sugar Council early this year. For this purpose, I am attaching hereto draft of a resolution which, if approved, will give the Government sufficient authority, in the opinion of the Secretary of Justice, to carry into effect the terms of the Agreement.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippine

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on increase of members of the Court of Appeals

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Increase of Members of the Court of Appeals**

[Released on February 10, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

At the opening of the regular session of this august body on June 16, 1936, in commenting upon the passage of Commonwealth Act No. 3 creating the Court of Appeals, I had occasion to state that as soon as funds were available for the purpose, I would recommend the creation of another division in the Court of Appeals to sit in one of the southern provinces, and to authorize the various divisions of said Court to sit in any province within their jurisdiction to hear cases pending before it for decision. At that time I was impelled to make that recommendation on account of my desire to make appeals as economical as possible in order to afford an opportunity to our less favored population to seek redress of their grievances in the highest courts of the land. There was not enough time then to observe the results of a normal functioning of the Court as constituted in Commonwealth Act No. 3.

I have now before me a summary of the work of the Court of Appeals during the year 1937, when the Court was functioning with a full membership. It appears that during the year 1937 there were filed with the Court 1,376 cases. During the year the Court, by decision or resolution, disposed of a total of 1,141 cases only, which shows that as presently constituted the Court would be unable to cope with the cases normally filed on appeal every year. If we take into account the fact that beginning with the first day of this year there were already 1,813 cases before the Court remaining undisposed of, which were the remainder of cases filed in 1936 and in 1937, and 179 cases coming from the Supreme Court still left undecided, it becomes evident that unless the number of Judges in the Court of Appeals is increased so that an additional division can function, the Court will find itself with a clogged docket before the end of the year 1938.

In order that the work of the three divisions of the Court may be coördinated and to avoid as much as possible conflicting decisions on cases of similar nature, and in order that the creation of another division may not become unduly expensive, it is believed that for the present the three divisions of the Court should function in the City of Manila, unless it is found that public interest requires that one or more divisions should hold its sessions in some other place.

It is recommended, therefore, that for the time being the membership of the Court should be increased to one presiding judge and fourteen appellate judges so that they may sit in three divisions at the same time in the City of Manila and that the Court be authorized to have any of its divisions hold session in any other part of the Philippines whenever public interest so requires. As it is important that this new division of the Court should function as early as possible during the present year, I can not but urge this honorable body to take prompt action on this recommendation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on prompt payment of salaries and wages,
February 16, 1938**

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Prompt Payment of Salaries and Wages**

[February 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

One of the most unjust, and even cruel, practices of employers that has been called to our attention, is that of not paying their employees and laborers on the date that their salaries or wages are due. This practice compels the employees and laborers to become victims of usurers and, as I am told, some of the employers themselves indirectly loan money to these employees and laborers with interest, while on the other hand they withhold unduly their pay or wage.

I recommend to the National Assembly the immediate enactment of a law that will stop such practice. It will be necessary to impose penalties that will be greater than the profit that this practice has been giving to those firms or individuals who have thus inhumanly exploited their employees and laborers. In this connection, I recommend the reenactment of Act No. 2549, as amended by Act No. 3958, prohibiting, among others, the payment of salaries or wages by means of tokens, chits or objects, there being certain doubts as to the validity of Act No. 3958, since at the date of its approval the former Act, which it purports to amend had already been repealed expressly by the Revised Penal Code.

Pursuant to the provisions of article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of such law.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Legislation on Acceptance of honors conferred upon Major General Basilio J. Valdes and Captain Ciriaco Carillo, February 18, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**LEGISLATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF HONORS CONFERRED
UPON MAJOR GENERAL BASILIO J. VALDES AND
CAPTAIN CIRIACO CARILLO**

[February 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the fact that Major General Basilio J. Valdes, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army of the Philippines, has been conferred the order of “Commander du Dragon du l’Annam” by the Government General of French Indo-China and His Majesty the Emperor of Annam, and that Major General Valdes, and Captain Ciriaco Carillo of the Philippine Coast Guard Service have also been conferred the ranks of Officer of the Order of the Belgian Crown and Chevalier of the Order of the Belgian Crown, respectively, by His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Under an Act of Congress (Private No. 55, 75th Congress), Major General Valdes and Captain Carillo, among certain officers of the United States Army and Navy, have been authorized to accept such medals, orders and decorations as have been tendered them by foreign governments in appreciation of services rendered. As Major General Valdes and Captain Carillo are officials of the Commonwealth Government, it is necessary that authorization be likewise granted by our Government under the provisions of article III, section 1, paragraph 9 of the Constitution of the Philippines, which requires that “no law granting a title of nobility shall be enacted, and no person holding any office of profit or trust shall, without the consent of the National Assembly, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any foreign state.”

In line with the action taken by you in the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 252 approved during your last session, authorizing the Chief Executive to accept the decoration known as the “Order of the Brilliant Jade,” conferred upon him by the National Government of the Republic of China, I recommend that necessary legislation be enacted authorizing Major General Valdes to accept the orders referred to above, conferred upon him by the Government General of French Indo-China and His Majesty the Emperor of Annam, and by the King of the Belgians, and Captain Carillo to accept the order conferred upon him by the King of the Belgians, and likewise authorizing these officials to wear the decorations corresponding to said orders.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Legislation on Acceptance of Decoration conferred upon Mr. Felipe Cuaderno, February 21, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Legislation on Acceptance of Decoration conferred upon Mr. Felipe Cuaderno**

[Released on February 21, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with my message to that body, dated February 18, 1938, in which I recommended the enactment of the necessary legislation authorizing Major General Basilio J. Valdes, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, and Captain Ciriaco Carillo of the Philippine Coast Guard Service to accept such medals, orders or decorations as have been tendered them by foreign governments in appreciation of services rendered. I have the honor to also bring to your attention the fact that His Majesty the King of Egypt has conferred upon Mr. Felipe Cuaderno, Assistant Director of Posts, a decoration with the corresponding insignia. This decoration was conferred upon Mr. Cuaderno as delegate of the Philippines to the 10th Universal Postal Congress held in Cairo, Egypt, during the period from February 2 to March 20, 1934.

Pursuant to the provisions of article III, section 1, paragraph 9, of the Constitution of the Philippines, and in line with the action taken by you in the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 252, approved during your last session, authorizing the Chief Executive to accept the decoration known as the "Order of the Brilliant Jade" conferred upon him by the National Government of the Republic of China, I recommend that legislation be also enacted authorizing Mr. Felipe Cuaderno, Assistant Director of Posts, to accept the decoration conferred upon him by His Majesty the King of Egypt and to wear the insignia corresponding to said decoration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Additional Appropriation for Relief Work,
March 3, 1938**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR RELIEF WORK

[March 3, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Commonwealth Acts Nos. 90 and 239, I issued, on January 11, 1938, Executive Order No. 139, creating a National Relief Administration and consolidating under its sole management the different relief activities of the Government and coordinating them with those being undertaken by private relief institutions. The National Relief Administration took over the activities theretofore performed by the National Relief Board, created under Executive Order No. 61, dated November 3, 1936, as amended, and by the National Unemployment Board, created under Executive Order No. 122, dated October 8, 1937. This new office has been empowered, among others, not only to investigate the extent of the damages caused by typhoons, floods and other public calamities in the different provinces and determine the amounts needed for relief and rehabilitation work, but also to take a census of all the unemployed and indigent persons in the Philippines and ascertain their needs and determine upon ways and means for ameliorating their condition.

I have designated the Commissioner of Health and Welfare to head this new office as National Relief Administrator. The frequency with which different parts of our country are visited by destructive typhoons, floods, fires, and other disasters makes the National Relief Administration a very important instrumentality of the Government in its work of relieving and rehabilitating afflicted communities.

One important function of the National Relief Administration is to serve as a placement agency for providing gainful occupation to thousands of the unemployed, a great number of whom have either been utilized in public works projects or placed on relief work, or recommended for private employment. This service is certainly a concrete, positive, and conclusive proof that the Government has the welfare of the masses at heart.

Commonwealth Acts Nos. 90 and 239 appropriated P1,500,000 and P500,000, respectively, or a total of P2,000,000, for the relief of communities and indigent sufferers from typhoons, floods, and other public calamities. The greater portion of this amount has already been either expended or obligated, leaving a balance of only P203,603. Obviously, this amount is not going to last long considering the requests for aid or relief that are being continuously received from the different provinces.

In view of the fact that great disasters or public calamities, such as typhoons, floods, and fires are liable to occur at any moment in the Philippines and the fact too that wide spread unemployment still exists in this country, I recommend that the National Assembly appropriate an additional amount of one million pesos, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the relief of communities and indigent sufferers from typhoons and other public calamities

and also for the succor of persons in distress due to unemployment or otherwise deserving of material aid. Needless to state, the appropriation of the said amount is necessary to further the ends of social justice when we are committed to promote.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Representation of National Assembly in the Council of State, March 8, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REPRESENTATION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE
COUNCIL OF STATE**

[March 8, 1938]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

I am informed that in your caucus tomorrow afternoon, you will discuss, among other things, the question of whether the members of the National Assembly should be represented or not in the Council of State, which I intend to revive shortly. In the first place, I wish to make it clear that I am not inviting representation of the National Assembly to this Council of State through this letter, but I am simply explaining why I am willing to invite a representation of the National Assembly to the Council of State if the members thereof so desire.

The main purpose which animated the creation of the Council of State when it was first established was to give the Legislature a voice in the councils of the Government. This was done originally by an American Governor-General in an effort to give the representatives of the people in the Legislature an opportunity in the deliberations of the Executive affecting important public questions, before a final decision was taken. Were I to create or summon the Council of State without letting the members of the National Assembly know that I shall be glad to have them represented in the Council if they so desire, my administration would be branded as less liberal and less democratic than the administration of the American Governor-General who first created the Council.

The principle of separation of powers, as well as the injunction of the Constitution against any member of the National Assembly accepting any executive position, is not at all involved in this question, for membership in the Council of State does not accord the member thereof any executive power. Nor, because of the appointment of a member of the National Assembly to the Council of State, will the Assembly be bound in any way by the opinion expressed by any member of that body sitting in the Council or even by the decision of the Council of State itself. The National Assembly is an independent branch of the Government, free at all times to act on any question within its province as it deems best. Should there be any doubt in your mind and in the minds of the members of that body as to the wisdom of any member taking a seat in the Council of State, I would consider it my duty not to invite you or any assemblyman to take part in the Council of State.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The Honorable
The Speaker of the National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Appointment of Speaker and Floor Leader of National Assembly as members of Council of State

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Speaker of the National Assembly
On Appointment of Speaker and Floor Leader of National Assembly
as members of Council of State**

[Released on March 10, 1938]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

In view of your statement to me that the members of the National Assembly feel that it would be desirable to include a representation of that body in the Council of State, I take pleasure in informing you that I shall appoint the Speaker and the Floor Leader of the National Assembly as members of the Council of State.

Through the presence of the Speaker and the Floor Leader of the National Assembly in the meetings of the Council of State which will include, from time to time, meetings of the different boards created by Acts of the Legislature, such as the National Economic Council, the Council of National Defense, the National Development Company, etc., the Assembly may be kept informed of what these organizations are doing in the performance of the duties imposed upon them by law. On the other hand, you and the Floor Leader may, from time to time, bring to the information of the Chief Executive views expressed by members of the National Assembly in your conferences which would be of great value to the Executive. This letter may be considered supplementary to my letter of March 8th.

Very cordially yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The Honorable
The Speaker of the National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the early partial release of the Appropriation for Public Works, March 17, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
**EARLY PARTIAL RELEASE OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR
PUBLIC WORKS**

[March 17, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with my message to you dated February 1, 1938, submitting for your consideration a public works program, I have the honor to request that, pending the final approval of the appropriations recommended in the bill attached to the message and with a view to taking advantage of this period of the year when the rainy season has not yet set in, the necessary legislation be immediately enacted authorizing the Chief Executive to release the expenditure of a sum, not exceeding forty per cent of the total amount recommended for appropriation in the said bill, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose of enabling the Government to commence at once the execution of all the projects, whether national or local, listed in the bill.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly Transmitting Report of the Government Survey Board

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly Transmitting Report of the Government Survey Board**

[Released on March 17, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to forward herewith, for your consideration, the report of the Government Survey Board created by Commonwealth Act No. 5.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on additional pay for trainees who may serve longer than five and a half months, March 18, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**ADDITIONAL PAY FOR TRAINEES WHO MAY SERVE LONGER
THAN FIVE AND A HALF MONTHS**

[March 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The National Defense Act was conceived with the purpose of producing effective national security at minimum cost. No feature of the Act exemplifies this purpose more clearly than that providing a normal period of service of only five and one-half months for trainees. However, it was fully realized from the beginning that an efficient Reserve Force could not be built up exclusively from individuals who had received no more than five and one-half months of military training. For this reason there were included in the plan such auxiliary training features as military courses in the public schools, training through the Junior Reserve, yearly recall of Reserve units for short periods of active duty and, most important of all, the training of noncommissioned officers and specialists through an additional five and one-half months of trainee instruction. On the success of this last feature depends in great degree the success of the whole plan, for without properly trained key men in the enlisted body of the Reserve, the tactical value of these units will be greatly reduced.

When the plan was initiated it was hoped that the Army's needs in eleven-month trainees would be fully satisfied by volunteers, and very early experience encouraged the belief that this hope would be fulfilled. It has developed, however, that trainees are not volunteering for the eleven months service in sufficient number to meet minimum needs, and, under the circumstances, arbitrary assignments have had to be made. Though such assignments, under section 53 of the National Defense Act, are entirely legal, yet since there is involved unequal treatment as among individuals, the charge has been made against the law that, in operation, it is to this extent unfair and undemocratic. All excuse for such allegations must be immediately removed, since the fundamental concept of the defense plan is that it prescribes a practical basis for cooperative popular effort to accomplish a necessary national purpose.

To place service of more than five and one-half months on a voluntary basis, and still to obtain the number of individuals needed, it is obvious that some direct incentive must be provided. To accomplish this purpose it is proposed to pay to every volunteer accepted by the Army for trainee instruction beyond the five and one-half months normal tour, a maximum of P5 additional per month. It is confidently believed that such a measure will meet the full requirements of the situation. It is, therefore, recommended that section 91 of the National Defense Act be immediately amended by including in it language to the following general effect:

“Provided that any trainee who may serve with the colors longer than 51 months, except for those who may be required by regulations to serve additional periods as a result of their own misconduct or unauthorized absences during the course of their normal trainee instruction, shall receive, over and above normal pay and allowances

provided for trainees, the sum of P5 for each additional month so served. This proviso shall become effective upon its approval.”

To bring section 92 of the Act in conformity with the above proviso, the first sentence of the section should be deleted. The second sentence should be amended to read as follows:

“Individuals undergoing training in the grade of probationary third lieutenant shall receive pay and allowances as provided in the preceding section for trainees of more than 5 1/2 months service, except that they shall receive such subsistence allowance as the Chief of Staff may prescribe.”

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on changes in the Administration of the Public School System

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Changes in the Administration of the Public School System**

[Released on March 25, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration a plan involving certain changes in the administration of the public school system. This plan was formulated after a number of conferences with officials of the Department of Public Instruction and of the National Council of Education.

First, I desire to invite your attention to that provision of the Constitution which requires the Government to provide at least free public primary instruction. This provision is clearly a recognition of the importance of education both to the individual and to the State. To make free public primary education a reality, it is planned to provide within the next school year beginning this coming June the facilities necessary to accommodate all children of primary school age who may seek admission in the schools and to enable such children to complete at least the fourth grade.

It is also desired to put into effect not later than the opening of schools in June, 1940, a system of compulsory primary education for all children living within a certain distance from a primary school. A law on compulsory education is deemed absolutely necessary because less than one-half of the children who attend the primary schools reach grade four and experience has shown that with only two or three years of instruction the child is very inadequately trained and retains little of what is taught him in the school. It is true that compulsory education is more than the minimum required by the Constitution but its importance to the welfare of the nation is sufficiently demonstrated by our own experience and that of older and progressive countries.

If primary education is as important as we acknowledge it to be, it seems unwise to continue with the present system whereby responsibility for the maintenance and extension of primary instruction is divided between the National and the municipal governments. In any case, when the municipal governments have been unable or unwilling to provide adequately for primary instruction, the National Government has invariably been called upon to appropriate the funds needed. It is, therefore, proposed to have the National Government assume full responsibility for the support of primary instruction. The main problems of providing salaries of teachers, the cost of buildings and equipment and the textbooks that are now furnished free shall be taken care of by the National Government, but the acquisition of school sites shall continue to be the concern of local governments as is now the case.

The Constitution, in requiring that the Government provide at least free primary instruction, not only safeguards every child's right to free admission to the primary schools but also implies that the child should also be given the opportunity of obtaining free instruction in the higher grades if and when conditions should permit. It should be admitted that four years of primary education can not prepare the individual for more than the most common and ordinary routine activities of his everyday life. For this reason it would be wise to encourage as much as possible the attendance of children in the intermediate grades to enable them to obtain a complete elementary education. And with this end in view it is planned to maintain and to extend the existing intermediate schools to be supported entirely by the municipal governments. The funds derived from the internal-revenue collection, from the land tax and from other minor sources of revenues that now accrue to the regular school fund of the municipality may be used to support the intermediate schools. Since these funds will most likely not be sufficient to take care of any increase in the intermediate grades, I believe it would be wise to give the municipal governments the power to impose a school tax so as to avoid the necessity of requiring pupils in the intermediate grades to pay tuition fees.

With regard to education above the elementary level, I wish to invite your attention to the provision of the Constitution which requires the Government to establish and maintain a complete and adequate system of public education. I have given the question of secondary education a great deal of thought and I am convinced that as a matter of policy, we should at this stage of our development give greater attention and more emphasis to vocational and industrial education.

Besides giving every child a primary and if possible a complete elementary education to train him on how to discharge his duties intelligently and to make proper use of his rights as a citizen, the Government should help the student acquire a secondary education which should round out his training for citizenship and give him proficiency in a vocation which would enable him to support himself and to contribute to the development of his country. Much as we would like to have the Government extend all possible aid to the schools, at least for the present, secondary academic education will have to be supported by those who desire that kind of education. Our financial resources at this time do not permit the Government to support the academic high schools. Accordingly, it is proposed that all academic high schools be supported entirely with tuition fees to be collected from students enrolled in those schools. But in order that poor students who are especially gifted may not be deprived of further education, scholarships should be established by the State.

I believe that the vocational secondary schools and vocational courses in academic high schools should be supported with provincial funds. No tuition fees should be required of students enrolled in vocational schools. To place these schools on a stable basis and to permit adequate planning and a long range program for their development, I recommend that legislation be enacted setting aside a definite percentage of the general funds of the province expressly for the maintenance of vocational instruction and empowering the provincial governments to create new sources of revenue which should accrue to the general fund.

It is also proposed to develop four or five regional agricultural schools of the Munoz type in different parts of the Philippines and a similar number of regional trade and industrial schools of the type and standard of the Philippine School of Arts and Trades but with a greater variety of industrial courses. Some of the agricultural and trade schools already established may be used in developing these regional schools so that the additional expense may be kept at a minimum. These schools will be maintained by the National Government, will be well equipped and adequately staffed, and will serve as models and set the standards for all other agricultural and industrial schools. They should offer more advanced instruction than that given in the provincial schools with a view to training leaders for the different industries.

In view of the importance of teacher training institutions and their very close relation to the efficiency of the elementary schools, it is likewise planned to have all normal schools, as well as the special schools, supported by the National Government.

I believe that the changes in our public school system outlined above will provide adequately for the proper development of the elementary and the secondary schools. The adoption of such changes will give effect to the wise provisions on education embodied in the Constitution and at the same time will give every individual the opportunity to develop fully his abilities to the benefit not only of himself but of the whole country as well. I, therefore, recommend that such legislation as you may deem necessary to carry out these changes be enacted at this session of the National Assembly.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Sinking Fund as guarantee against loss of United States Military Property, March 25, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**SINKING FUND AS GUARANTEE AGAINST LOSS OF UNITED
STATES MILITARY PROPERTY**

[March 25, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of enacting a law providing for the establishment of a sinking fund, the purpose of which will be to guarantee the United States against loss of military property loaned to the Philippine Army by that government.

Since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, the United States has constantly maintained a most coöperative attitude in all our efforts to establish an efficient national defense. Aside from all other types of military assistance rendered us, we have been furnished, on a loan basis, some millions of pesos worth of equipment which is now either in use in training establishments, or in storage. The eventual price to be paid for such of these items as may be retained permanently in the Philippines, will be determined, at the proper time by mutual agreement between the two governments. Official confirmation of this understanding is furnished in a letter from the Office of the United States High Commissioner, dated March 10, 1938.

In the meantime the United States Government is, of course, entitled to reasonable assurance against current loss or damage. Such assurance can be furnished most effectively by authorizing the purchase of United States bonds and their deposit with the Bureau of Insular Affairs for the purpose intended. The amounts of such bonds will be, as requested by the Secretary of War, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

This arrangement will provide ample security to the United States War Department and will be entirely fair and just to the Philippines because the amount of the bonds on deposit will at no time exceed the value of the property on loan, while no withdrawals will be authorized except for the purpose stated, and after consultation with this Government.

Pursuant to the provisions of article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly transmitting report of the Committee created to study effects of Earthquakes on Buildings, March 25, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TRANSMITTING
**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CREATED TO STUDY EFFECTS
OF EARTHQUAKES ON BUILDINGS**

[March 25, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your consideration, the attached report of the Committee created by me under Administrative Order No. 44, to study the effects of the recent earthquakes on buildings and to recommend building regulations that should be adopted by the Government to safeguard the public.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Immediate Enactment of Bill No. 3428, April 8, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF BILL NO. 3428

[April 8, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Bill No. 3428, entitled “An Act to amend items of appropriation under section 1, paragraph *a* of Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred forty.”

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on taking over and operation by the Government of Public Utilities or Businesses coupled with a Public Interest, May 14, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**TAKING OVER AND OPERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES OR BUSINESSES COUPLED WITH
A PUBLIC INTEREST**

[May 14, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration and early approval a bill, entitled—

“An Act to authorize in certain cases the taking over and operation by the Government of public utilities or businesses coupled with a public interest; to appropriate funds for such purposes; and to prescribe penalties for interfering with the exercise by the Government of its authority under the Act.”

Ordinary labor conflicts affect only the employer and his employees or laborers and the immediate dependents of such parties. These conflicts can be taken care of by the agencies now provided by law for their solution. However, there are some labor conflicts whose effects transcend the immediate participants and cast an influence, more or less appalling, upon a great number of innocent people. When a strike or lockout occurs in a public service or in a business affected with a public interest, the public suffers through no fault of its own. What is more, it is not infrequent that the strikes or lockouts in such businesses become a public problem, affecting, as they do, not only the convenience of a great number of people but also the maintenance of public order, the preservation of public health, and the operation of industries necessary to the national economy. In those cases, there is no doubt that the ordinary processes heretofore provided would be unavailing. The problem becomes serious and calls for immediate solution. The public welfare and the public interest demand that the services offered by those businesses should not be interrupted. The State should not allow any strike or lockout to jeopardize or embarrass the common weal. The service of that same interest, likewise, demands that some expedient be found to the end of preventing the occurrence of strikes in the business while under the control of the Government or to the end of recalling to the service of such business those who prior to the assumption by the Government of the control thereof, have abandoned their work, either individually or collectively, on account of any dispute or disagreement between their employers and themselves.

Therefore, the attached bill is submitted for your consideration. Under it, the Government is authorized to operate such business, for its own account, during the period of the emergency. It is my belief that the provisions contained therein are sufficiently broad to meet the emergency which a strike or lockout in a public service or in a business coupled with a public interest may cause. It contains provisions which will guarantee to labor a just determination and recognition of its claims and to capital, the just compensation to which it is entitled under our Constitution. It contains provisions which will protect the Government against sabotage while it is operating such businesses.

I am aware of the fact that there is no specific provision in the Constitution of the Philippines authorizing the measure now submitted for your consideration and approval. I am, however, guided by the demands of the public interest and by the implications that may be drawn from that provision of the Constitution which authorizes the State, in the interest of national welfare, to establish and operate industries and means of transportation and communication, and upon payment of just compensation, to transfer to public ownership, utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government. (Section 6, Article XII, Constitution of the Philippines.) I am of the opinion that if the State can go to the extent ordained in the foregoing provision of our Constitution, it can do what is proposed to be done in the attached bill, which is much less than that.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the attached measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Repeal of Laws fixing salaries of officers, professors, and instructors of the University of the Philippines, April 20, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
REPEAL OF LAWS FIXING SALARIES OF OFFICERS, PROFESSORS, AND INSTRUCTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

[April 20, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the repeal of all existing laws which fix the salaries of the officers, professors, and instructors of the University of the Philippines. These laws are, among others, Act No. 2787 and Act No. 2672, section 1 (that portion establishing a schedule of salaries for said institution). In my special message to the National Assembly on November 17, 1937, I dwelt on the need of giving the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines full responsibility and corresponding authority in the management of the affairs of the institution. To achieve this, certain restrictions on the freedom of action of the Board of Regents should be removed. One of the most serious of these restrictions is the salary schedule for the State University, fixed by law. The Board of Regents has thus been unable to give the compensation which the needs of the University required, and the salaries for the various instructional ranks, fixed by law, have often not been in accordance with the duties and responsibilities for each rank. Moreover, in the contracting of eminent professors from abroad no limit should be placed on the compensation that may be offered, in order that the services of the very best men may be secured. The power of the Board of Regents to decide upon those matters should, therefore, be expressly recognized.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Appropriation of P1,000,000 for the purchase of equipment for the University of the Philippines, April 20, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION OF P1,000,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF
EQUIPMENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES**

[April 20, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For some years now, due to the limited annual contribution of the Government to the University of the Philippines, the various colleges of the institution, especially those of Agriculture, Engineering, Medicine, and Liberal Arts, have not been able to provide themselves with certain essential and necessary equipment for their scientific laboratories. The acquisition of adequate equipment is absolutely necessary if this institution of higher learning, maintained out of public funds, is to perform its functions satisfactorily.

The Board of Regents of the University, in conference with me and in their last official meeting, has come to the conclusion that a special appropriation is needed to supply the deficiency. I am convinced that such an appropriation is justified. I have the honor to recommend, therefore, that legislation be enacted appropriating the sum of one million pesos (P1,000,000) for the University of the Philippines for the purchase of equipment. This will enable the institution to raise its standard and, consequently, to render the service that the people have the right to expect from this Government's high institution of learning.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding measure.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Heavier Penalties for the theft of Large Cattle, April 20, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR THEFT OF LARGE CATTLE

[April 20, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

One of the long-standing evils which has been afflicting the inhabitants of our rural communities and which, despite the vigorous campaigns for its eradication, still remains unabated, is the theft of large cattle. While many circumstances contribute to make difficult the apprehension of the malefactors, the comparatively light penalty imposed upon them if brought to the court of justice is undoubtedly one of the causes of the persistent and utter disregard of the punitive provisions of our laws on the subject. It is of common knowledge that the perpetrators even organize themselves to make more systematic and effective the commission of the theft or robbery of large cattle, if not as a means of livelihood, in some instances as a new sport, at the expense of a great many of our poor farmers. Considering that large cattle are oftentimes kept not near the residences of the owners but in the fields quite distant there from, and that the present light penalties provided for stealing them make the risk involved in the commission of the crime so relatively little as to tempt the would-be male factors to commit the crime, cattle-rustling has become not only a lucrative activity but also a crime often committed with impunity. And as a rule the victims are the poor families and tenants whose means of livelihood principally depend upon their working animals. I, therefore, recommend that the provisions of the Penal Code be revised in order to impose heavier penalties upon those who prey upon a great mass of our working citizenry.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on transfer of the Northern Luzon Junior College, April 20, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
TRANSFER OF THE NORTHERN LUZON JUNIOR COLLEGE

[April 20, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend that the Northern Luzon Junior College be transferred from its present site in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to the City of Baguio, and to repeal for this purpose Act No. 2956.

Act No. 2956, creating the Northern Luzon Junior College, fixes the site of said college in the Municipality of Vigan, Province of Ilocos Sur. The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines recommends the transfer of this college to the City of Baguio. Said college, if transferred to Baguio, could be developed into a regular College of Liberal Arts of the University of the Philippines giving both junior and senior college courses. The existence of a regular College of Liberal Arts of the State University in Baguio would have several advantages among which are the following:

1. Classes in Baguio could be given from March to October so that students of both the Baguio College and the Manila College of Liberal Arts could study three semesters a year, the former by transferring to the Manila College during the second semester, and the latter by transferring to the Baguio College during the first semester.
2. Such a college would serve a larger constituency inasmuch as more provinces would have an easy access to the same.
3. The temperate climate of Baguio is more conducive to study.

For the purposes of the provisions of article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Repeal of Section Three of City Lowland Improvement Act, April 20, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REPEAL OF SECTION THREE OF CITY LOWLAND
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

[April 20, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of enacting a law to repeal section three of Act Numbered Three thousand three hundred and fifty-two, as amended by section two of Act Numbered Four thousand two hundred and sixty-one, known as the City Lowland Improvement Act, so that the City of Manila may, with or without the consent of the owners, fill the lowlands in the city which are considered a menace to public health.

Act No. 3352 known as the City Lowland Improvement Act was enacted by the former Philippine Legislature so as to facilitate the filling of lowlands in the City of Manila which constitute a nuisance and a menace to the public health, and improve the sanitary conditions in the City. However, section 3 of said Act, as amended by section 2 of Act No. 4261, provides that if the estimated cost of filling any land or ground belonging to private persons exceeds one-half of the assessed value thereof, the City shall not fill the said land or ground without the consent of its owner. I am informed that in actual practice this particular provision of law constitutes an obstacle to the attainment of the objectives of said legislation as the city government of Manila is presently encountering difficulties in filling lowlands belonging to private owners because of their general refusal to give the necessary consent. Thus, in most cases the city government has failed to fill lowlands in the interest of public health. I, therefore, urge you to enact the necessary legislation to repeal section 3 of Act No. 3352, as amended by section 2 of Act No. 4261.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Censorship and Foreign Distribution of Philippine-made movie films, April 26, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**CENSORSHIP AND FOREIGN DISTRIBUTION OF PHILIPPINE-
MADE MOVIE FILMS**

[April 26, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of amending sections 2 (*a*) and 3 of Act Numbered Thirty-five hundred and eighty-two entitled “An Act to create a Board of Censorship for Moving Pictures and Defining its Functions,” as amended, so as to empower said Board to censor locally made films and prohibit the distribution there of either locally or otherwise, when in its judgment any such film would be prejudicial to the prestige of the Common wealth of the Philippines or its inhabitants.

There are now in the Philippines quite a number of corporations engaged in the production of films spoken or silent. A short time ago one of these corporations took some pictures of the life, past and present, in the southern is lands. Many of the scenes contained in this picture depict or portray conditions which are not only untrue and do not obtain and never existed, but also are harmful and injurious to the prestige and good name of the inhabitants of the Philippines, and I am informed that said film had been given considerable publicity abroad. So far there is no law regulating the distribution abroad of films produced in the Philippines. It is therefore, necessary to enact during this session a law to remedy this lack of legislation.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the annual convention of the Philippine Islands Medical Association, April 26, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the annual convention of the Philippine Islands Medical Association**

[Delivered in Zamboanga, April 26, 1938]

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

I wish to convey to the members of the Philippine Islands Medical Association now in convention in the City of Zamboanga, my very deep interest in their convention and my sincere hope that, as in the past, their convention would redound to the advancement of medical science in our country. I congratulate the Association in general and its members in particular for the splendid work that they have been doing. I am confident that they will continue their efforts towards making the Philippines a better country to live in.

It is worthwhile repeating to the members of this Association the assurance that the Government is deeply concerned with public health and sanitation. The furnishing of safe drinking water to every community; the liberalization of the provincial hospital law to enable all provinces to establish hospitals and public dispensaries; the expansion of the Philippine General Hospital; and the construction of regional leprosaria, are some of the features of my health program.

The Philippine Islands Medical Association as representative of the medical profession can very well help the Government in its campaign to reduce our general and infant mortality, and to elevate the health and stamina of our people. While it can not be denied that money is of prime importance in the administration of public health, we should not lose sight of the fact that the quality and training of the medical practitioners and of public health officials, as well as their interest in the welfare of others, are of equal, if not of great, importance.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Abolition of the Manila Harbor Board, April 28, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
ABOLITION OF THE MANILA HARBOR BOARD

[April 28, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a law abolishing the Manila Harbor Board which was created by Act No. 3002, as amended by Act No. 3851.

The existence of the said Board is no longer necessary, as the arrastre service in the Port of Manila is now being operated by the Manila Railroad Company, an instrumentality of the Government best adapted to undertake such work. Under this arrangement, the remaining part of the supervisory function of the Board over the Government arrastre plant of the Port of Manila can be undertaken by the Bureau of Customs.

The abolition of the Board will result in the transfer of an amount of about P600,000 representing current cash surplus and reserves of the "Manila Harbor Board Fund" to the General Fund of the National Government, thereby making the same available for appropriation by the National Assembly for the general purposes of the Government. In the estimate of revenues for 1938 shown in the Budget, an amount of P200,000 was estimated as available for transfer from the surplus of the Manila Harbor Board Fund to the General Fund.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Penal Restrictions on the transfer of Private Agricultural Lands, April 28, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**PENAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSFER OF PRIVATE
AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

[April 28, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have been informed that many transactions of sale and assignment of private agricultural lands are being consummated in utter disregard of the inhibition embodied in section 5 of Article XII of the Constitution which provides that “save in cases of hereditary succession, no private agricultural land shall be transferred or assigned except to individuals, corporations, or associations qualified to acquire or hold lands of the public domain in the Philippines.” This is apparently due to the lack of necessary legislation penalizing acts of violation of this constitutional precept. In other words, this constitutional prohibition is wanting of a sanction which should be in harmony with the policy of conserving our natural resources as enunciated in the Constitution.

I, therefore, recommend the passage of legislation that will penalize acts of assignment and/or transfer of private agricultural lands to persons, corporations or associations not qualified to acquire or hold lands of the public domain.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Regulation of Business of Warehousing,
April 30, 1938**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
REGULATION OF BUSINESS OF WAREHOUSING

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of enacting a law that will regulate the business of warehousing. While there may be a sufficient number of existing laws on the matter, yet these laws have distinct and separate objectives. They either refer to the issuance of warehouse receipts or the warehousing of some specified agricultural products, or simply authorize the establishment, operation, and maintenance of warehouses. There is no general law regulating the business of storing merchandise and agricultural products, although there are rules and regulations governing the same.

The development of agriculture and commerce has attained such a height as to give rise to the immediate need for more warehousing facilities and, consequently, to the demand for an effective government supervision over warehouses to protect the public in general and the businessmen and producers in particular. If merchandise and agricultural products are properly classified, stored, insured against fire, and protected from other hazards, the value and utility of warehouse receipts, as a vehicle of trade will be enhanced. Warehouse receipts, uniform in their terms and conditions, will find ready acceptance to credit and banking institutions and will, in effect, widen the credit range of our merchants and farmers.

I, therefore, urge the enactment of a measure that would in a way consolidate the different objectives sought to be attained in several laws now in force regarding the business of warehousing, to enable the Government to administer effectively and supervise closely warehouses already existing and yet to be established.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on separation of the Constabulary from the Philippine Army, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**SEPARATION OF THE CONSTABULARY FROM THE
PHILIPPINE ARMY**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Since the establishment of the Commonwealth there has been under constant study the question of organizing a national police which, while assuring the maintenance of law and order, would at the same time, operate so fairly and disinterestedly as to gain and hold universal confidence and respect. At the time of the approval of Commonwealth Act No. 88, it was thought that an organization as contemplated therein would effectively meet the requirements of the situation, but continued investigation and experience have convinced me that the plan visualized in that law is not completely satisfactory.

The chief reason for this belief is that the plan fails to make either a definite use or a final disposition of the old Constabulary organization, but instead establishes another, and in some respects a parallel organism, necessarily to be composed principally of new, inexperienced personnel.

While by implication, the law contemplates the eventual elimination of this duplication of functions by a transfer of Constabulary responsibility to the new agency, practical considerations will make the transitional period long and expensive, while the resulting police machinery will almost certainly be less effective and efficient than could be provided in a simpler fashion.

My proposal is that we separate the Constabulary completely from the military sections of the Army, and employ it to carry out, under the supervision of the President those police functions that devolve upon the central government. Thus while every officer and man in the Constabulary will be identified with the Army, will receive his basic disciplinary training therein, and will be the possessor of those military traditions and customs that place a premium upon personal integrity and hold performance of duty in higher regard than personal gain, the organization as a whole will be definitely separated, theoretically and practically, from the defense forces of the Nation.

Other advantages to this proposal are:

(a) Immediate availability of an organization, in which the personnel is specially trained for the tasks involved. Experimentation in administrative method will be unnecessary.

(b) Political or other type of interference in police affairs will be minimized.

(c) The Army will be relieved of the financial burdens incident to a service with which it has no true governmental connection and which under proper budgetary procedure should, of course, not be charged against military activity. Because of the necessity for carrying this burden at present it was found necessary in the 1938 appropriations to authorize the transfer of the Army's own construction costs to the public works program. This was merely an expedient and if the plan herein proposed is adopted, it will not hereafter be repeated.

(d) The police force will be built up and improved on a foundation of past tradition, experience, and of generally splendid reputation among the people.

(e) The organization will be clean-cut, and will not duplicate any other one in existence, either in expense or in function.

(f) Procurement, promotion, retirement, discipline, and elimination of personnel will require no new laws or regulations, since in all these matters the new organization will be subject to the same legal processes as apply to the military sections of the Army.

(g) Administrative costs will be minimized because the setting up of complete purchasing, supply and many other administrative services will be avoided by utilizing the facilities of the Army.

If this plan is approved by the National Assembly it is my purpose to institute without delay a program of intensive and appropriate training in the rejuvenated, reorganized Constabulary, and in all elements of the nation's police. However, it will be the purpose to leave purely local police affairs in the hands of local officials. Through the Constabulary, as it regains its one time reputation for police efficiency, we shall be able to assist municipalities without antagonizing, to cooperate without patronizing.

Because budgetary estimates pertaining to the Army for the year 1939 have already been submitted and were not formulated in conformity with the plan herein outlined, it is, of course, necessary to make certain revisions therein. Assuming the favorable action of the Assembly on this plan, all estimates for Army construction in 1939 are to be stricken out of the budget for public works. This deduction will be taken care of by an exercise of the authority accorded the President in that proviso of the Army's 1939 Budget which permits the transfer, at quarterly intervals, of amounts as needed from Purposes I and II to other Purposes of the Budget. Hereafter, the yearly estimates will be submitted to the Assembly in detailed form under appropriate items and purposes.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding measure.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on inspection and grading of Philippine Timber and Lumber for export, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**INSPECTION AND GRADING OF PHILIPPINE TIMBER
AND LUMBER FOR EXPORT**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The Philippines is exporting timber and lumber to the value of about P2,000,000 annually, but there has been no compulsory inspection and grading of such exported lumber and timber although the Government, when requested by exporters, renders inspection and grading service.

Complaints have been received from foreign importers to the effect that Philippine lumber received by them from some local producers is not graded properly. As a consequence thereof prices have gone down to the detriment of the Philippine lumber industry. At the present time, there is no uniform standard of grading being followed by lumber companies and other manufacturers in the Philippines. While it is true that Philippine lumber is commonly sold abroad under the National Hardwood Grading Rules of the United States, the rules enforced by the different lumber producers in the Philippines are not uniform.

Reports have also been received to the effect that Philippine lumber is being misrepresented in some foreign markets by dealers in competitive woods. This misrepresentation should be counteracted by the Government for the benefit of the Philippine lumber industry and those engaged in the same.

In order to remedy this situation, it is necessary that official standard grades and measurements be adopted to maintain the prestige of Philippine woods abroad, to prevent unfair competition, and protect the interests of our licensees. All lumber and timber shipped abroad should also be graded and inspected by the Government in the same manner as abaca fiber and tobacco consigned for exportation are inspected by the proper entities of the Government.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law requiring the inspection and grading of all timber and lumber for export and authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to accomplish this purpose.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on appropriation for classification, survey, and subdivision of public lands, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION FOR CLASSIFICATION, SURVEY, AND
SUBDIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The subdivision of public lands along national highways is imperatively necessary for the purpose of providing ready lots for homeseekers whose tendency is to rush to, and settle upon, public lands situated along newly opened roads and highways. The lack of properly subdivided lots to accommodate homeseekers has, in the past, been the cause of serious conflicts arising from the pernicious practice of squatting on, and illegal occupation of, public lands by settlers and homeseekers. I deem it part of a sound national policy to avoid the recurrence of such conflicts in the future.

Of the several national road projects, the construction of which will soon be undertaken by the Government, some will pass through regions which have been fully or partly classified as agricultural lands available for purposes of subdivision.

In order to enable the Government to undertake the classification, survey, and subdivision of all these public lands along with, or even before, the construction of any of the proposed highways, I recommend that the National Assembly appropriate the amount of P2,500,000 for the purpose. Of this amount, P500,000 will be expended for the classification of the areas not yet classified and the remaining P2,000,000, for the survey and subdivision of public lands duly classified. The immediate release of this sum is necessary for the prompt organization of the needed subdivision parties who will undertake the survey and subdivision work. We have adopted the policy of disposing only for settlement properly subdivided public lands, not only to secure equitable distribution thereof among applicants but also to forestall conflicts among settlers. It can readily be seen, therefore, that the immediate carrying out of the land classification, survey, and subdivision project will be a step looking forward to the timely colonization and development of idle public lands, especially in Mindanao and Sulu.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on additional appropriation for Reforestation and Afforestation Purposes, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR REFORESTATION AND
AFFORESTATION PURPOSES**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

During your first regular session, you enacted Commonwealth Act No. 119 appropriating the amount of P250,000 for the reforestation and afforestation of watersheds, denuded areas, communal forests, national parks, timberlands, and other forest lands in the Philippines.

The Director of Forestry, in his report submitted to you on January 27, 1938, pursuant to the provisions of said Commonwealth Act No. 119, stated that there are only fourteen projects which are now under progress. Of the total amount set aside under this Act, only a little more than one-half is available for expenditure for the ensuing years. I desire to lay emphasis on the importance of continuing and maintaining our projects on reforestation and to carry on side by side with them our activities on flood control. In connection with the work on reforestation, noteworthy results have already been obtained by the Government from the raising of quinine trees in Bukidnon and in providing future supply of pine trees in the mining districts of Baguio. However, the work already accomplished is very little as compared to what still remains to be done, due to lack of sufficient funds for the purpose.

With a view to furthering the accomplishments made by the Government in this regard, I recommend that the National Assembly appropriate an additional amount of P1,000,000 to be spent for the same purpose and in a like manner as provided in Commonwealth Act No. 119. The setting aside of this additional amount will also enable the Government to reclaim submarginal lands by making them productive through the planting of trees for timber and other valuable forest products, for the protection of watersheds, checking soil erosion, regulating floods, thus minimizing the destruction of lives and property, and conserving water supply for irrigation and for other domestic purposes.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 2492—Commutation of the Money Value of additional leave of Justices of the Supreme Court, etc., April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**VETO OF BILL No. 2492—COMMUTATION OF THE MONEY
VALUE OF ADDITIONAL LEAVE OF JUSTICES
OF THE SUPREME COURT, ETC.**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2492, entitled “An Act to allow the commutation of the money value of the additional leave of the justices of the Supreme Court; the extended leave of the justices of the Court of Appeals and judges of the Courts of First Instance, and teachers; and the accrued leave of other officers and employees of the Philippine government, amending for the purpose section ten of Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred and twenty.”

It is estimated that the National Treasury will be drained to the extent of more than two million pesos if the bill in question is converted into law. Considering the needs of the country at this time, it is considered inadvisable to divert from the National Treasury such a big amount of money now. At any rate, the accrued leave already earned by government employees will not be lost to them, as the money value of such accrued leave shall be paid to them upon their separation from the service. Furthermore, the Commissioner of Civil Service has informed me that there are several bureaus and offices which have failed to keep accounts payable for accrued leave properly and the present accrued leave payable funds will not be sufficient to meet the demand for payment in case the proposed bill is approved, and the manner in which this deficit is to be met is entirely unsatisfactory.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 2338—Securing to Lawyers the Right to Appear in Justice of the Peace Courts, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**VETO OF BILL No. 2338—SECURING TO LAWYERS THE
RIGHT TO APPEAR IN JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2338, entitled “An Act to secure to lawyers the right to appear for or to defend any person in the justice of the peace courts.”

I am in sympathy with any measure that would help litigants in courts get the benefit of better counsel. However, this bill would, in effect, eliminate “procuradores judiciales” who under section 34 of the Code of Civil Procedure may be authorized by the Judges of the Courts of First Instance to appear for parties in the justice of the peace courts in certain cases.

Since the services of lawyers are rarely available in some distant or remote places, this bill will work hardship on the people of these localities. Furthermore, according to the Collector of Internal Revenue, the total number of “procuradores judiciales” who paid the privilege tax for the year 1937 is only forty (40) but out of this, twenty (20) surrendered their licenses before the end of the year. It is very evident that the elimination of the said “procuradores judiciales” would not, in an appreciable way, be an act favoring the legal practitioners, in view of their insignificant number.

I cannot, therefore, give my approval to this bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on prohibition of use, sale or circulation of postage stamps and envelopes bearing unauthorized surcharges, cachets, or marks, April 30, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On prohibition of use, sale or circulation of postage stamps and envelopes bearing unauthorized surcharges,
cachets, or marks**

[Released on April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the fact that certain individuals, taking advantage of the value placed upon postage stamps and envelopes bearing surcharge and cachet marks, have been placing unauthorized surcharges and cachets or marks commemorating new stamp issues or some historical or special event, upon genuine postage stamps and envelopes. Such practice is obviously designed to enhance the value, for collection purposes, of stamps and envelopes which are then circulated for profit.

Inasmuch as postage stamps and envelopes with such unauthorized marks are of no value for philatelic purposes, the public should be protected from the unscrupulous practice by prohibiting the same.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law which would expressly prohibit the use, sale, or circulation of postage stamps and envelopes bearing unauthorized surcharges, cachets, or marks and which would provide penalties therefor.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on the amendment of the Philippine Rice Share Tenancy Act

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on the amendment of the Philippine Rice Share Tenancy Act**

[Released on April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend that Act No. 4054, commonly known as the Philippine Rice Share Tenancy Act, which by executive proclamations is now in force in the provinces of Central Luzon, be amended so as to clarify certain ambiguous provisions of the same, thereby making their enforcement easier.

I propose the following changes:

- (1) While under the present law the rice tenancy contract, in the absence of a stipulation, expires after one agricultural year only, this period should be increased to three agricultural years;
- (2) Doubts arising from ambiguous clauses in a tenancy contract should be resolved in favor of the tenant if he is an illiterate. No such provision exists in the present law.
- (3) Any agreement between a landlord and a tenant whereby the latter renounces his right to the exemption of the fifteen per centum of his share in the crops from the landlord's lien should be declared null and void;
- (4) Rent of the land should be included as among those obligations which a landlord can not require his tenant to pay; and
- (5) The tenant should be made self-sufficient by requiring him to have a garden, poultry, and other minor industries in the lot allotted to him by his landlord for his residence.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Legislation authorizing the President of the Philippines to enter into Agreement with the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company regarding Foreshore Reclamation Projects, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE
ATLANTIC GULF AND PACIFIC COMPANY REGARDING
FORESHORE RECLAMATION PROJECTS**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

By virtue of Act No. 3056, the then Governor-General and the Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company entered into an agreement, pursuant to which the company should reclaim certain foreshore areas near the mouth of the Pasig River. The total area to be reclaimed was approximately 58,902 square meters, of which the Government was to get 32,509 square meters and the Company 26,333 square meters minus a strip reserved for street purposes. The time within which the work should be done not having been fixed by said Act, the company reclaimed most of the area that should belong to it, but failed to do the work of reclaiming the portion that should pertain to the Government.

During the period that has elapsed since the approval of Act No. 3056, further studies made by the Director of Public Works have shown that a change in the plans and consequently in the agreement would be advisable. This change bears close relation with the proposed North Port district development which involves reclamation of the foreshore area between the mouth of the Pasig River and that of the Vitas Estero, and an entrance to the adjacent basin from the mouth of the Pasig River.

I, therefore, recommend the approval of a law authorizing the President of the Philippines to enter into any agreement or agreements with the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company which may be deemed necessary to supplement the original agreement referred to above, and under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by both parties, in order to make the work contemplated conform to the changes that may be recommended by the Director of Public Works and approved by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the revolving fund for the construction of tenement houses, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE

**REVOLVING FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
TENEMENT HOUSES**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a law to convert the unexpended balance of the amount appropriated for the construction of laborers' tenement houses under Act No. 4181, as amended by Commonwealth Act No. 43, together with whatever amount that may hereafter be appropriated or may be realized from the lease or use of said houses, into a revolving fund to be made available for the expenses of construction, acquisition, improvement, repair, upkeep, maintenance, and administration of the same. Approval of such a law is very necessary because at present there is no provision which authorizes the use of the rents to be collected from tenement houses for defraying repair or administration expenses.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on reduction of contributions to the Agricultural Fund, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**REDUCTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
AGRICULTURAL FUND**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of amending Commonwealth Act No. 85, so that the minimum contribution that each province, municipality or municipal district is required to set aside as agricultural fund would be reduced from 5 per cent to 3 per cent of its general fund. Provision should also be made to authorize the exemption from this contribution, of any province, municipality or municipal district whenever it is deemed necessary to do so in order not to tie up a portion of the local funds which could well be utilized for other essential activities.

Under Commonwealth Act No. 85, it is made obligatory upon provinces and municipalities to set aside annually 5 per cent of their respective general funds for agricultural purposes. However, it has been observed that many provinces and municipalities are not financially in a position to give the required contribution without curtailing some of their essential activities. Moreover, municipalities whose growth and development do not depend upon agriculture have been compelled to set aside 5 per cent of their general funds to no advantage, while the principal activities of their inhabitants upon which said municipalities largely depend for their maintenance and existence have been unattended to. I, therefore, recommend the enactment of the necessary measure that would remedy this undue discrimination.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the penalizing the erasure of the word
“imported” from shells of imported eggs, April 30, 1938**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**PENALIZING THE ERASURE OF THE WORD “IMPORTED”
FROM SHELLS OF IMPORTED EGGS**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have been informed that some unscrupulous persons, firms or corporations have been resorting to acts misrepresentation in disposing of imported eggs by erasing from the shells thereof the word “imported” and representing the same to the purchasers and consumers as of local production, in violation of Act No. 4037. This is apparently due to the lack of necessary legislation penalizing such acts.

In order to protect the public and the local egg industry from this illegal practice, I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a measure penalizing the violation of Act No. 4037.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Replacement of the Eight-hour Labor Law with another Law, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REPLACEMENT OF THE EIGHT-HOUR LABOR LAW WITH
ANOTHER LAW**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend that another law be enacted to replace the existing Eight-Hour Labor Law (Act No. 4123, as amended by Act No. 4242).

Experience has shown that the present Eight-Hour Labor Law has not adequately protected the interests of the workingmen. There is a general clamor for a stricter and wider application of the eight-hour requirement. While the present law applies only to specified classes of laborers, the proposed measure should include all laborers, with the exception of farm laborers, domestic servants and persons in the personal service of another and members of the family of the employer working for him.

Under the present law, it has been observed that whenever a certain employer is required to comply with the eight-hour labor law provision, he retaliates by reducing the rates of compensation of his laborers. This has proved to be a very effective weapon in the hands of the employer to compel his laborers to ask for the increase in their hours of labor, and even if they do not do it, they simply acquiesce in the employer's desire to make them work more than eight hours a day for fear that if they protest their income would be considerably reduced. In order to forestall such move on the part of the employer, I suggest the insertion of a provision which would prohibit reduction of wages due to the application of the eight-hour labor law requirement.

In the proposed measure, I also suggest the insertion of a provision prohibiting the operation or doing of business on Sundays and legal holidays. It is lamentable that even Filipino-owned companies sometimes do not respect holidays set aside for commemorating important historical events or for honoring the memory of national heroes. While the rest of the world is enjoying complete rest, the laborers of some establishments, especially dry goods stores, are busy attending to their respective jobs. The prohibition against working on Sundays and holidays should, however, be made inapplicable to public utilities whose service to the public must necessarily be continuous.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding measure.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Information regarding labor conditions in each place of business, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**INFORMATION REGARDING LABOR CONDITIONS IN EACH
PLACE OF BUSINESS**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a law which would require employers to submit information to the Secretary of Labor every two years regarding wages, working hours, and other matters concerning labor conditions in their establishment or place of business. The value of such information is apparent. Until now the Government does not possess complete labor statistics which ought to be consulted before any policy or legislation involving the relationship of capital and labor is adopted. With the limited personnel which the Government can provide for, we can never expect to have complete data or information regarding labor conditions in the Philippines if the employers shall not be required to help in this connection.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on placing of all land and sea transportation enterprises on equal footing, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**PLACING OF ALL LAND AND SEA TRANSPORTATION
ENTERPRISES ON EQUAL FOOTING**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The vessels of the merchant marine are compelled under present laws to carry the Government mail delivered to them by the Bureau of Posts, without compensation. On the other hand, land transportation services are being paid for the carriage of mails. This difference appears to be without foundation, for, aside from being prosperous and realizing large profits, the land transportation enterprises utilize the highways which have been constructed and are being maintained with public funds.

I, therefore, recommend the approval of a law which shall place all transportation enterprises with certificates of public convenience on the same footing whether on land or at sea. Such a law will enable the Government to realize savings of thousands of pesos annually while the carriage and delivery of mail will be more frequent and efficient.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Venue of Suits by Laborers for Claims in small amounts, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
VENUE OF SUITS BY LABORERS FOR CLAIMS IN
SMALL AMOUNTS

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a law which would allow laborers who have claims in small amounts against their employers to bring action in the justice of the peace courts of the municipalities where they reside. The requirement of the present law that such action be brought in the justice of the peace court of the municipality where the defendant resides, in the absence of a written agreement to the contrary, works an injustice to the claimants who reside in places far from the residence of their employers. Approval, therefore, of a law which would do away with such requirement would be another step looking forward to the protection of the rights of the working classes of our people.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on enlarging the present territorial limits of the City of Baguio, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**ENLARGING THE PRESENT TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE
CITY OF BAGUIO**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the necessity of enacting a law to enlarge the present territorial limits of the City of Baguio.

The area of the City of Baguio, as now constituted, is too inadequate to permit the laying out of an extensive and systematic development program in keeping with its rapid expansion. Additional territory is necessary to provide for its orderly growth. It is practically the summer capital of the Philippines and its development should not be hindered by lack of room for expansion. For this purpose, I propose that the Chief Executive be authorized by executive order to annex to the City of Baguio adjoining municipal districts within the Mountain Province, and that any action taken by him in this regard be submitted to the National Assembly for its approval at the next regular session.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Prohibiting constructions which offer hazards to Air Navigation, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**PROHIBITING CONSTRUCTIONS WHICH OFFER HAZARDS
TO AIR NAVIGATION**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In order to encourage the progress of aviation in the country, it is incumbent upon the Government to take all measures tending towards safety in air navigation. We should prohibit any construction which endangers an airplane in flight and diminish those already existing. These requirements are not covered by the Civil Aviation Law, Commonwealth Act No. 168. Whereas the Secretary of Public Works and Communications exercises supervision over the enforcement of the provisions of said Act as well as the rules and regulations issued in conformity thereto, he has no authority at present to prohibit certain constructions which offer hazards to air navigation, such as tall buildings, towers, and poles in the immediate vicinity of national or military airports and landing fields. Such hazards minimize the utility of landing fields and place lives and property in danger.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law expressly prohibiting the construction of buildings, towers, and poles over certain specific heights in the vicinity of national or military airports as well as the establishment of landing fields within a radius of five kilometers from government airports.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding measure.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on licensing radio receiving stations used for commercial purposes, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**LICENSING RADIO RECEIVING STATIONS USED FOR
COMMERCIAL PURPOSES**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The regulation and control of radio stations and all forms of radio communications in the Philippines are prescribed by Act No. 3846, which embodies the Government policy of authorizing the establishment of a commercial radio communication service only by a legislative franchise. At the time of the approval of this Act, radio receivers for commercial purposes in the Philippines were used in conjunction with transmitting stations which are regulated under its provisions. The use of receiving sets independently of transmitting stations was considered noncommercial in nature, it being then confined to the reception of broadcast programs. However, enterprising companies are now using radio receivers for the reception of press messages from foreign news agencies for local publications, thus entering into competition with the regularly established commercial radio communication companies. This enterprise of using only radio receivers at a station for commercial purposes should also be regulated by the Government and authorized only under a license duly issued for the purpose.

I, therefore recommend the enactment of a law or an amendment to the existing radio law which would require that commercial radio receiving stations should be established and operated under a license issued by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, with the approval of the President.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on providing adequate protection to Philippine Forest Resources, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**PROVIDING ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO PHILIPPINE
FOREST RESOURCES**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of amending section 2751 of the Revised Administrative Code, as amended by Act No. 3314, by making it unlawful for any person to willfully enter and occupy any public forest, proclaimed timberland, communal forest, and communal pasture; or to cause any damage to the timber stand and other forest products and forest growth found therein; or to assist, aid or abet any other person so to do; and to graduate the penalties to be imposed for violations committed within the different kinds of public forest. It is believed that through this amendment, the pernicious practice of “kaiñgin making,” which constitutes one of the greatest evils menacing our forest resources will be stopped.

The administration of public forests in this country has, since the enactment of the original law relating to public forest which is more or less similar to the law now in force, undergone certain changes through the segregation from the public forest of the so-called communal forest or communal pasture, timberland, and forest reserve for specific purposes. The Government has spent considerable sums of money for the delimitation, survey, study and investigation, management, or protection of these forest resources. Under the present law, however, any offense committed within these special forests is punished by the same law governing public forests. Taking into consideration the fact that these forests are placed under intensive supervision and management in contrast to the administration of public forest in general, it is felt that in proportion to their importance, a heavier penalty should be imposed for violations committed within said special forests. The effective administration of timberland, communal forest or communal pasture, and forest reserve, will also obviate the necessity on the part of the Government of instituting ejectment proceedings and incurring unnecessary expenses therefor to prevent such occupants from further encroachment or occupation of the forest.

As a means of providing adequate protection to our forest resources and preventing direct or indirect losses to the Government through illegal destruction of our forest, I strongly urge the passage of a law to this effect.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Further Revision of the Election Law, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
FURTHER REVISION OF THE ELECTION LAW

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

On the eve of the election of members of your august body, I deem it appropriate to invite your attention *to* the necessity of further revising our laws affecting the conduct of elections. In your last session you revised the Election Law in an effort to minimize irregularities, frauds and corrupt practices which have affected public confidence in the supervision of elections. However, in the enforcement of the revised law in the elections of December, 1937, certain loopholes and defects were yet observed. The frequent change of the membership in the boards of election inspectors has affected the stability of the functions of said boards and the cumbersome procedure provided for the preparation and actual casting of the ballots has greatly delayed the voting, resulting practically in the deprivation of the exercise of the political privileges of many electors to participate in the election of public officials. A further revision of the Election Law is thus necessary.

I desire particularly to call your attention to the corrupting influence of political pressure and coercion, and the degrading taint of monetary considerations in the election of our public officials. The country must be assured of a fair and honest election of its constitutional representatives. To build up a citizenry imbued with the ideals of democracy, where each constituent is made conscious of his civic duty towards his government, it is of vital importance that the lavish expenditures of private funds in election campaigns be reduced to a minimum. The country has experienced many a time the disgusting spectacle of election contests where, irrespective of personal fitness of the contending candidates, victory had to be given to the candidate most able to spend lavish sums upon his constituents. Such a state of affairs discourages the participation of able citizens not favorably circumstanced in worldly possessions, in the conduct of public affairs through the tenure of elective positions. No reason of poverty should stand between any person and a public office within the gift of the people.

I, therefore, urge you to enact the necessary legislation so as to curb more effectively the commission of frauds and irregularities in the conduct of elections and limit to reasonable proportions the expenditure of funds for all election campaigns.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippine

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Repeal of the Employers' Liability Act and amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, April 30, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**REPEAL OF THE EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT AND AMEND-
MENT OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT**

[April 30, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a law to repeal Act No. 1874, commonly known as the Employers' Liability Act, and to amend the provisions of Act No. 3428, known as the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to afford greater protection to laborers who may have suffered from injuries in connection with their employment.

There seems to be no reason why all compensation cases arising from accidents resulting in injury or death of laborers while in the performance of their duties should not be brought under only one Act. Inasmuch as the Workmen's Compensation Act is more elaborate and comprehensive than the Employers' Liability Act, the former is preferable to the latter. The Workmen's Compensation Act should, however, be amended so that small business or industrial enterprises should be required to pay less compensation than that paid by companies having big capital or yielding big income. This distinction should be made to protect a small business or industry from being ruined.

The Workmen's Compensation Act should likewise be amended so that one of the grounds for disallowing compensation should be changed from "notorious negligence" to "any act or omission punishable by law" on the part of the laborer. "Notorious negligence", besides being too broad, is difficult to prove, while "any act or omission punishable by law" is more definite. In fairness, however, to the employer, a laborer who has been injured because he committed an act or failed to do so in violation of law should not be allowed to obtain compensation from his employer.

Provision should also be made to increase the penalty for refusal or negligence of an employer to send to the Bureau of Labor the notice or information required by the Workmen's Compensation Act of all injuries received by their employees in the course of their employment. The reason for this is that a small fine of not more than P25, as now provided by law, does not deter owners of big and powerful companies from concealing labor accidents.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution. I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on transfer of the duties performed by the Bureau of Commerce regarding registration of corporations and associations to the Securities and Exchange Commission, May 10, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**TRANSFER OF THE DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE BUREAU
OF COMMERCE REGARDING REGISTRATION OF COR-
PORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS TO THE SECUR-
ITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[May 10, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Up to now, the duties and functions in connection with the registration of corporations and all other forms of associations have been performed by the Bureau of Commerce. In view of the recent creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission which has control over the sale of securities issued by such corporations and associations, and in the exercise of which power, it has perforce to go into the corporate and financial structure of the issuers of such securities, I believe that in the interest of efficiency and economy, the duties now performed by the Bureau of Commerce in connection with the registration of corporations and associations should be transferred to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

I, likewise, suggest that specific authority be vested in the Securities and Exchange Commission to enforce the laws applicable to corporations and associations, as there is no clear and specific provision in any statute vesting this power and authority in any office of the Government.

I have the honor, therefore, to recommend that the necessary legislation be enacted to carry into effect the foregoing purposes.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the legislation covering the matter above referred to.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Rank and Term of Office of the Philippine Army Chief of Staff, May 10, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**RANK AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF**

[May 10, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The organization of the Army of the Philippines has revealed a deficiency in the National Defense Act, which, in the interest of efficiency and good discipline in the Army, should be supplied. I refer to the absence of provisions governing the rank of the Chief of Staff and his term of office. I believe that the officer detailed as Chief of Staff should be conferred a grade which shall not be conferred upon any other active officer of the organization. While under the provisions of paragraph (d) of section 22 of the National Defense Act, the President of the Philippines is authorized to distribute the officers of the Army of the Philippines among grades as may be determined by him, and, therefore, the foregoing purposes might be accomplished by Executive Order, yet I hesitate to act thereon except upon express legislative authority, as the matter relates to an important Army policy and will affect the present grade of certain officers of the Army.

I have the honor, therefore, to recommend the enactment of necessary legislation to carry into effect the foregoing objectives.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the legislation covering the matter above referred to.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the amendment of the National Public Works Program, May 10, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On the amendment of the National Public Works Program**

[Released on May 10, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message to you of February first, I explained in detail the policies and factors governing the preparation of the public works program I then submitted for your consideration. Your prompt passage of Commonwealth Act No. 257, appropriating forty per centum of the funds recommended for all of the items in that program has enabled the inauguration of actual work on a large number of the projects and active preparation for carrying out others. It has also permitted time for intensive study of every detail of the draft of the Bill for public works, revealing the desirability of certain amendments, in order that the program may more adequately fulfill requirements. These amendments are set forth in the accompanying draft, and will increase the total appropriation to P96,141,300, derived from the following sources:

(1)	Excise tax on coconut oil collected in the United States
(2)	National revenues collected in the Philippines
(3)	Port works fund
Total	

They are, for the most part, self-explanatory, but some of them warrant special attention.

It is proposed that the item of P50,000 under section 1–(B)-a be increased to P345,000 and made available for the construction of the most urgently needed post-telegraph buildings throughout the country, in order that present unsatisfactory housing conditions militating against efficient communication service may be remedied and that expenditures for rental of private property for this purpose may be reduced.

The amendment of paragraph (q) of subsection (c) to enable the Chief Executive to allot the funds for certain items thereof to other National Road projects, if the public interest so requires, is designed to avoid the construction of highways which would compete with the Manila Railroad, and also to permit deviation from tentatively planned routes that are found to be in conflict with the best interests of the localities concerned. We must not forget that we have a very large investment in the railroad and are obligated to ultimately pay for all the Company's outstanding bonds. Until those bonds, at least, are paid off, we must be on the alert to prevent measures that would reduce the Company's income.

To cover such shortage of funds as may occur in the execution of the projects authorized, with the exception of portworks, for which annual appropriations are usually made, it is proposed that an item of P200,000 be added and placed at the disposal of the Chief Executive for that purpose.

The largest single increase of appropriation recommended is that of P1,600,000 for a modern highway bridge to replace the historic Colgante Bridge across the Pasig River at Manila, including the widening and improvement of A. Regidor and El Dorado streets and their extension to Rizal Avenue. Manila traffic conditions must be improved, not only in the interest of business, but as a means of more effective fire-protection and police and other public

services. After careful study, it appears that this project will be one of the best measures we can take toward that end.

In order that the Weather Bureau may be able to broadcast storm warnings under any weather conditions, an appropriation of P319,500 is proposed for the construction and equipment of ten special radio stations to be devoted primarily to broadcasting weather reports and similar emergency information.

The item of P230,600 recommended for the establishment of new commercial radio or telegraph stations under the Bureau of Posts should be allotted as the needs of the service dictate and for that reason it is proposed that it be appropriated as a lump sum and distributed with the Chief Executive's approval.

Several items for river control, sea protection and port-works have been included as the data concerning them have now become available.

In view of the representations made concerning the needs of the various districts, there will be no objection to the amendment of paragraph (r) so as to permit the utilization of the sums appropriated therein for aid to the provinces, cities, and municipalities for the construction of other public works as well as local roads. There will also be no objection to the inclusion of an additional item, appropriating not more than P720,000, for provincial and inter-coastal roads, provided that the provinces concerned shall obligate themselves to maintain any such roads as may be authorized before funds for their construction are released. This condition is necessary because the National Government has assumed the burden of maintaining the National Road system and the provinces and municipalities must take care of the rest. We should not build additional public improvements unless they could be maintained. With this end in view, I recommend that your Honorable Body enact legislation authorizing both the provinces and the municipalities to levy additional taxes to cover the cost of upkeep of provincial and municipal roads.

I have deemed it expedient to include provision for an additional section, which would authorize the Chief Executive to designate any National Road, or part thereof, or any bridge or ferry forming a part thereof, as a toll road, bridge or ferry, as the case may be, to secure funds for the upkeep of such National Road. While I do not anticipate that such steps will be necessary immediately, I consider it advisable to have this authority available as a safeguard against destruction of the National Road system in the event that the normal sources of revenue for its maintenance are extraordinarily reduced, for any reason.

It is also believed necessary, consistent with the policy which has been adopted in previous appropriation laws to meet the exigencies of current revenue fluctuations, to insert the usual proviso that all sums appropriated from the General Fund and the Port Works Fund shall be released only after certification by the Secretary of Finance that there are sufficient funds in the Treasury to warrant such action, and, furthermore, to include authority for withholding the release of any item of appropriation in this Bill, wholly or in part, if, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, the public interest so requires.

With the amendments recommended, I consider the public works program I have submitted to you as one of the most vital measures for the social and economic advancement of our country which are possible of enactment at this time, and in that light I commend it to your earnest consideration.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the Public Works Appropriation Bill.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Payment of Retirement Gratuities, May 11, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT GRATUITIES

[May 11, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Act Numbered Twenty-five hundred and eighty-nine, entitled “An Act providing for a gratuity by reason of retirement to officers and employees who have rendered satisfactory service during six continuous years or more, and for other purposes,” contains no provision specifying the source of fund from which gratuities of employees retired thereunder shall be paid, and the general fund of the National Government has been made to shoulder the burden of paying all gratuities that have heretofore been granted, including those of employees of the Metropolitan Water District, the University of the Philippines, and others. Such payments have been a constant and undue drain upon the general fund of the National Government. As a matter of equity and justice, the gratuities of officers and employees retired under said Act should be paid from the respective fund from which their salaries are paid at the time of their retirement. I, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law to accomplish this purpose.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Increase of Judges and Judges-at-Large of First Instance and fixing their compensations, May 11, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**INCREASE OF JUDGES AND JUDGES-AT-LARGE OF FIRST
INSTANCE AND FIXING THEIR COMPENSATIONS**

[May 11, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration and early approval a bill entitled:

“An Act to amend certain sections of Chapter nine, title four, of the Revised Administrative Code, and to insert a new article therein, so as to increase the number of judges and judges-at-large of first instance, to alter the times and places of holding courts in certain districts, and to fix the compensation of judges and judges-at-large of first instance, and appropriating therefor the necessary funds.”

The attached measure (*a*) provides an additional branch in the Court of First Instance of Pampanga and another in the Court of First Instance of Iloilo, (*b*) increases the number of judges-at-large from five to twelve, (*c*) fixes the salary of the judges of first instance in accordance with the scale provided in the current Appropriation Act, and (*d*) appropriates P88,115 for disbursement between June 1, 1938, and December 31, 1938.

Although the courts of first instance, during the year 1937, disposed of 21,984 cases, which exceeded by 2,339 the number of cases disposed of during the year 1936, the number of cases pending at the end of the year 1937, as compared with that pending at the end of the year 1936, increased by 217 in view of the fact that in 1937 22,201 cases were filed. Inasmuch as it is expected that the number of cases that will be filed during the year 1938 will be equal to, if not more than, that filed during the previous year, it is absolutely necessary that the number of judges be increased not only in order to dispose of the new cases filed but also to bring up to date the dockets of those provinces that are not up to date.

The average number of cases filed in Pampanga during the last two years has been such as to make it impossible for one judge to dispose of this large number of cases as well as the old cases still pending. Hence the need for an additional judge.

Iloilo, like Cebu, has an average increment of over 1,000 new cases every year. The judges in Iloilo are also charged with the duty of hearing cases in Antique, so that, all in all, they must dispose of from 1,100 to 1,200 cases every year. Cebu, with about as many cases to dispose of every year, has three judges. It is, therefore, necessary that Iloilo should also have three judges.

Other provinces had an unusual number of cases accumulated at the end of the year 1937. This condition, however, is only temporary and the increment of new cases filed in those provinces can be taken care of by the judges now sitting there, were it not for the previous congestion of their dockets. To keep up with the cases of those provinces, it is necessary to send there judges-at-large at certain regular intervals. Four provinces—Camarines Sur, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, and Lanao—will require one judge-at-large almost regularly for a year or so, not only to take care of the excess of cases pending therein but also of the cadastral cases that have been accumulating in those provinces. To permit the Department of Justice to have available at least one judge-at-large sitting in each of the nine judicial districts and three judges-at-large in cases of emergency, and in order to expedite the disposition of cadastral cases, it is believed that provision for seven additional judges-at-large should be made.

It is possible that after a number of years and when the dockets of the several courts of first instance have been brought up to date, the number of judges of first instance would be in excess of the requirements of the administration of justice. However, I would like to state that the establishment of collegiate courts of first instance for the trial of cases is now under serious consideration by me, as I sincerely believe that this would be a step forward towards giving our people the best assurance for an impartial and upright administration of justice. In the event that this course is ultimately taken, the judges of first instance that are made available by this bill will be fully needed to carry out our purpose.

Section 9 of Article VIII of the Constitution provides that the judges shall receive “such compensation as *may be fixed by law*.” Heretofore, the salaries of judges have been provided for only in Appropriation Acts, through lump sum appropriations, with no specific provision fixing the salaries of each of the judges in the several districts. Act No. 3911, which fixed the salaries of judges, has become obsolete on account of the subsequent reorganization of the Judiciary which has changed the districts throughout the Philippines. To give effect to the above-quoted constitutional provision, it is necessary that provision be made fixing the salaries of the judges and judges-at-large of first instance. The attached bill contains this provision, based on the scale of salaries contained in the current Appropriation Act.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the attached measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on defects in the Charter creating of ambiguities and defects in the Charter creating the Court of Industrial Relations, May 11, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**CLARIFICATION AND CORRECTION OF AMBIGUITIES AND
DEFECTS IN THE CHARTER CREATING THE COURT OF
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

[May 11, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that the Court of Industrial Relations organized under authority of Commonwealth Act Numbered One Hundred and Three, notwithstanding the natural handicaps which all new institutions have to face, has been a very useful instrument in the settlement of disputes between capital and labor in this country and to a certain extent can be credited with having brought about a more frank understanding between employers and employees as to their respective rights. However, there are certain ambiguities and defects in the charter of its creation which, in the interests of all, demand clarification and correction.

The power of the Court to punish for a contempt of its orders or to punish persons guilty of misbehaviour in its presence or so near to the Court as to obstruct its proceedings, must be clarified. While I believe that, under the present law, it is vested with this power, yet, to dispel whatever doubts there might be on the matter, it is best that it be expressly and unequivocally conferred upon it.

Furthermore, the penalty for the contempt punished under section nineteen of the Act, where the offender is a corporation, should fall upon the officers of such corporation and where the offenders are persons belonging to a labor union, such penalty should be borne by the leaders of the union, the persons who have induced the commission of the contempt.

I, likewise, believe that the penalty provided in Commonwealth Act Numbered One Hundred and Three for a violation of the order, award, or decision of the Court is not adequate. To enable the Court to attain the ends for which it has been created, those penalties should be made more severe so as to discourage any person, otherwise inclined to do so, from flouting its orders and decisions. If the violator is a corporation or a person holding a franchise or a certificate from the Government, the violation by him or by it of the orders or awards of the Court should result in the suspension, if not forfeiture, of such franchise or the loss of his or its rights under the certificate issued by the Government. No person who fails or refuses to support the policy of the Constitution in regard to the relations between labor and capital or to abide by the orders of the competent court issued in furtherance of that policy and authorized by a statute approved for the advancement of the public welfare, has the right to continue enjoying special concessions from the State.

There is one further defect in the law above referred to, to which I have the honor to invite your attention. Section 19 of the law provides that no employer may be allowed to engage the services of strike breakers within fifteen days after the declaration of a strike. This provision was presumably enacted by you to render effective the laborers' right to strike. While I am in full accord with the principle which inspired the above provision as I have time and time again declared that laborers and employees have the right to strike, yet, on the other hand, we must consider that there are certain businesses which so affect the public and whose services are so essential to it, that a strike might cause undue hardship upon innocent people and might work a great harm to the common interest. I believe that while retaining the main principle of the above-cited provision, we should except from its operation public services or businesses affected with a public interest.

I have the honor, therefore, to request that the necessary legislation be enacted to carry out the suggestions contained in the foregoing.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the legislation covering the matter above referred to.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on construction of the Tarlac-San Jose Railroad Line and of provincial hotels and resthouses, May 11, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On construction of the Tarlac-San Jose Railroad Line and of provincial hotels and resthouses**

[Released on May 11, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend that the provisions of Act No. 3116 be amended, so as to specifically include the Tarlac-San Jose branch line of the Manila Railroad Company as one of the projects, the cost of which is to be financed by subscriptions to the capital stock of this Company by the Government, and also to permit the use of funds authorized under said Act to cover the cost of construction or acquisition of provincial hotels and resthouses to be constructed or acquired by the Manila Railroad Company.

The branch line from Tarlac, the capital of Tarlac Province, to San Jose, Nueva Ecija, a distance of 55 kilometers, has already been completed up to the town of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, out of the funds of the Manila Railroad Company, and there still remains about 14 kilometers of line to be constructed to reach San Jose, which will be the terminal of this branch. This line traverses a well-populated, fertile region in the Provinces of Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, producing a large tonnage of rice. With the completion of this line, the Company will be enabled to handle the traffic between Manila and the Cagayan Valley by rail up to San Jose and thence by motor transportation over the highway across the Caraballo range into the Provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, and Cagayan. The benefits resulting from the improved transportation facilities afforded by this line to the provinces affected can hardly be over-estimated.

With the approval of this proposed measure, it will be feasible for the Manila Railroad Company to obtain reimbursement for the amount of P1,300,000 that it has already spent for the Tarlac-San Jose branch line and to provide ample funds for the construction of various hotels in the provinces now under consideration and for the purchase of the necessary rolling stock for the new lines constructed under the provisions of Act No. 3116. With the Company being relieved from spending its own money for hotel construction and as a result of the reimbursement for the amount expended on the Tarlac-San Jose branch line, the Company can devote the cash on hand to the retirement of the balance of the Southern Lines 4 per cent bonds maturing next year, thus solving to a large extent one of our most important and pressing financial problems.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly, May 14, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly**

[Released on May 14, 1938]

**OPERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OR BUSINESS COUPLED
WITH A PUBLIC INTEREST**

When a strike or lockout occurs in a public service or in a business affected with a public interest, the public suffers through no fault of its own.

The State should not allow any strike or lockout to jeopardize or embarrass the common weal.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting for your consideration and early approval a bill, entitled—

“An Act to authorize in certain cases the taking over and operation by the Government of public utilities or business coupled with a public interest; to appropriate funds for such purposes; and to prescribe penalties for interfering with the exercise by the Government of its authority under the Act.”

Ordinary labor conflicts affect only the employer and his employees or laborers and the immediate dependents of such parties. These conflicts can be taken care of by the agencies now provided by law for their solution. However, there are some labor conflicts whose effects transcend the immediate participants and cast an influence, more or less appalling, upon a great number of innocent people. When a strike or lockout occurs in a public service or in a business affected with a public interest, the public suffers through no fault of its own. What is more, it is not infrequent that the strikes or lockouts in such businesses become a public problem, affecting, as they do, not only the convenience of a great number of people but also the maintenance of public order, the preservation of public health, and the operation of industries necessary to the national economy. In those cases, there is no doubt that the ordinary processes heretofore provided would, be unavailing. The problem becomes serious and calls for immediate solution. The public welfare and the public interest demand that the services offered by those businesses should not be interrupted. The State should not allow any strike or lockout to jeopardize or embarrass the common weal. The service of that same interest, likewise, demands that some expedient be found to the end of preventing the occurrence of strikes in the business while under the control of the Government or to the end of recalling to the service of such business those who prior to the assumption by the Government of the control thereof, have abandoned their work, either individually or collectively, on account of any dispute or disagreement between their employers and themselves.

Therefore, the attached bill is submitted for your consideration. Under it, the Government is authorized to operate such business, for its own account, during the period of the emergency. It is my belief that the provisions contained therein are sufficiently broad to meet the emergency which a strike or lockout in a public service or in a business coupled with a public interest may cause. It contains provisions which will guarantee to labor a just determination and recognition of its claims and to capital, the just compensation to which it is entitled under our Constitution. It contains provisions which will protect the Government against sabotage while it is operating such businesses.

I am aware of the fact that there is no specific provision in the Constitution of the Philippines authorizing the measure now submitted for your consideration and approval. I am, however, guided by the demands of the public interest and by the implications that may be drawn from that provision of the Constitution which authorizes the State, in the interest of national welfare, to establish and operate industries and means of transportation and communication, and upon payment of just compensation, to transfer to public ownership, utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government. (Section 6, Article XII, Constitution of the Philippines.) I am of the opinion that if the State can go to the extent ordained in the foregoing provision of our Constitution, it can do what is proposed to be done in the attached bill, which is much less than that.

* * *

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

**Message of President Quezon to the Commission on Appointments of the First National Assembly on
Withdrawal of Judge Zandueta's Appointment, May 18, 1938**

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Commission on Appointments
of
The First National Assembly
On Withdrawal of Judge Zandueta's Appointment**

[Released on May 18, 1938]

Gentlemen:

Under the authority granted me by the Constitution and our laws I issued an *ad interim* appointment in favor of the Honorable Francisco Zandueta as Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Fourth Judicial District, Fifth Branch, on November 7, 1936. This *ad interim* appointment was submitted to the Commission on Appointments during the 1937 regular session but the Commission took no action thereon until it adjourned on November 20, 1937. Whereupon again I made the same *ad interim* appointment which I have submitted to your Commission as provided by the Constitution.

Since this last *ad interim* appointment was made, there had come to the knowledge of the Secretary of Justice some information which he deemed necessary to look into affecting the conduct in the Bench of Judge Zandueta. Before starting the investigation, the Secretary of Justice informed me of the case and I authorized him to proceed with the same and to inform the Chairman of your Commission of the pendency of such investigation. While this investigation was being conducted, and after the Secretary of Justice had informed Judge Zandueta of the nature thereof, I was approached by a prominent Chinese merchant on behalf of Judge Zandueta. While the Secretary of Justice, after completing his *ex-parte* investigation has informed me that there is sufficient ground for the presentation of formal charges, in my opinion it is not necessary to go any further with said case. Regardless of the merits of the complaint against Judge Zandueta, there is sufficient cause for the Chief Executive to consider him unworthy of the position of Judge, by the mere fact that in order to keep himself in his present position, he has appealed to the intervention of the said Chinese merchant, who has had a case before his court and secured favorable judgment therein. Besides, Judge Zandueta has also appealed to other parties for the same purpose.

Officials of the Philippine Government must be made to realize that whenever they have a case to present or defense to make of themselves they should assert their right through the methods recognized by law—never through outside influence. In the case of a Judge, this is much more important. A Judge should never place himself under personal obligations to anybody. The dignity of his office, no less than the independence of the Judiciary, is involved. The conduct of Judge Zandueta in this case makes him unfit to continue in his position as Judge of the Court of First Instance of Manila.

It should be remembered that although Judge Zandueta has been serving in the Bench for many years, he has ceased in the service under the Judicial Reorganization Act passed by the Assembly in conformity with the Constitution, and, therefore, his *ad interim* appointment may be considered, and it is so legally, a new one. His position, therefore, under this new appointment is different from that where his appointment had been already confirmed. In this latter case to separate him from the Bench, the judgment of the appointing power as to his fitness is no longer conclusive. A procedure has been provided by law through which alone he can be removed from office. But, before an appointment has been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly, if for sufficient grounds the Chief Executive should find that he made a mistake in making the appointment, it is his duty to apprise the Commission on Appointments of the facts and secure the consent of the said Commission to withdraw the same or ask for its disapproval. I am, therefore, requesting you to consent to my withdrawing this appointment.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The Commission on Appointments
National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Withdrawal of an Ad Interim Appointment,
May 18, 1938**

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly on withdrawal of an ad interim appointment**

[Released on May 18, 1938]

WITHDRAWAL OF AN AD INTERIM APPOINTMENT

Officials of the Philippine Government must be made to realize that whenever they have a case to present or defense to make of themselves they should assert their right through the methods recognized by law—never through outside influence.

A Judge should never place himself under personal obligations to anybody. The dignity of his office, no less than the independence of the judiciary, is involved.

Gentlemen:

Under the authority granted me by the Constitution and our laws I issued an ad interim appointment in favor of the Honorable F. Z. as Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Fourth Judicial District, Fifth Branch, on November 7, 1936. This ad interim appointment was submitted to the Commission on Appointments during the 1937 regular session but the Commission took no action thereon until it adjourned on November 20, 1937. Whereupon again I made the same ad interim appointment which I have submitted to your Commission as provided by the Constitution.

Since this last ad interim appointment was made, there had come to the knowledge of the Secretary of Justice some information which he deemed necessary to look into affecting the conduct in the Bench of Judge Z. Before starting the investigation, the Secretary of Justice informed me of the case and I authorized him to proceed with the same and to inform the Chairman of your Commission of the pendency of such investigation. While this investigation was being conducted, and after the Secretary of Justice had informed Judge Z of the nature thereof, I was approached by a prominent Chinese merchant on behalf of Judge Z. While the Secretary of Justice, after completing his ex-parte investigation has informed me that there is sufficient ground for the presentation of formal charges, in my opinion it is not necessary to go any further with said case. Regardless of the merits of the complaint against Judge Z, there is sufficient cause for the Chief Executive to consider him unworthy of the position of Judge, by the mere fact that in order to keep himself in his present position, he has appealed to the intervention of the said Chinese merchant, who has had a case before his court and secured favorable judgment therein. Besides, Judge Z has also appealed to other parties for the same purpose.

Officials of the Philippine Government must be made to realize that whenever they have a case to present or defense to make of themselves they should assert their right through the methods recognized by law—never through outside influence. In the case of a Judge, this is much more important. A Judge should never place himself under personal obligations to anybody. The dignity of his office, no less than the independence of the Judiciary, is involved. The conduct of Judge Z in this case makes him unfit to continue in his position as Judge of the Court of First Instance of Manila.

It should be remembered that although Judge Z has been serving in the Bench for many years, he has ceased in the service under the Judicial Reorganization Act passed by the Assembly in conformity with the Constitution, and, therefore, his ad interim appointment may be considered, and it is so legally, a new one. His position, therefore, under this new appointment is different from that where his appointment had been already confirmed. In this latter case to separate him from the Bench, the judgment of the appointing power as to his fitness is no longer conclusive. A procedure has been provided by law through which alone he can be removed from office. But, before an appointment has been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly, if for sufficient grounds the Chief Executive should find that he made a mistake in making the appointment, it is his duty to apprise the Commission on Appointments of the facts and secure the consent of the said Commission to withdraw the same or ask for its disapproval. I am, therefore, requesting you to consent to my withdrawing this appointment.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The Commission on Appointments
National Assembly
Manila

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on further amendment of the Public Works Bill for 1938, May 19, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On further amendment of the Public Works Bill for 1938**

[Released on May 19, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Referring to my messages to you of February 1 and May 10, 1938, in connection with the Public Works Bill for 1938, I have the honor to submit for your consideration the necessity of improving the facilities of the School for the Deaf and Blind in Pasay, Rizal, in order that those unfortunates may be more adequately cared for. The accommodations of this school are so limited that, of the large number of deaf and blind people in this country, very few who are susceptible to training and education which will render them at least in part self-supporting can be admitted. For that reason, I recommend that the Public Works Bill for 1938 now under consideration by that honorable body be further amended by the insertion of the following item under section 2-A-(a):

“9.	For the School for the Deaf and Blind, Pasay, Rizal
-----	---

It appears, also, that additional funds should be provided for the completion of the shore-protection project at Dalahican, Cavite, and therefore, I recommend the insertion of the following item under section 1-D-(z):

“23.	Dalahican shore-protection, (sea wall and/or dyke)
------	--

These additional items will increase the total appropriations in this Bill as follows:

(1)	Excise tax on coconut oil collected in the United States	P88,688,100.00
(2)	National revenues collected in the Philippines	5,263,200.00
(3)	Port Works Fund	2,100.000.00
Total		<u>P96,351,300.00</u>

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
Respectfully,
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly submitting Report on the operation of the Bureau of Printing Revolving Fund during 1937, May 19, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SUBMITTING
**REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE BUREAU OF PRINTING
REVOLVING FUND DURING 1937**

[May 19, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 2 (E), Special Provisions (X), paragraph (5), of Commonwealth Act No. 38, I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the Director of Printing regarding the operation of the Bureau of Printing Revolving Fund during the fiscal year 1937.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on commercial stock service and public improvement aids to the cities of Manila and Baguio, May 19, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On commercial stock service and public improvement aids to the cities of Manila and Baguio**

[Released on May 19, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

My attention has been called to the lack of firsthand information on the prices of Philippine export products prevailing in foreign markets, which could serve as basis for the producers and local traders in determining the prices at which they should sell such commodities to the exporters. The only source of information now available is that provided by the exporters, which, for obvious reason, does not always satisfy the producers.

I am informed that, formerly, the Bureau of Commerce was maintaining a cablegraphic service which enabled it to keep the Philippine producers and local traders constantly informed of the changes in the prices of commodities exported from the Philippines as quoted in the foreign markets, but the same had to be discontinued several years ago when the bureau's appropriation was substantially reduced. I consider the revival of the said service an urgent necessity and of vital importance to the producers of our export products, in particular, and to the business concerns of the Philippines, in general, and I recommend that the necessary appropriation for carrying out the purpose be made available. It is estimated that a daily cablegraphic service which would give adequate information and data regarding prevailing prices, market conditions and other necessary trade informations between Manila and the cities of New York, San Francisco, London and Osaka, will require an annual appropriation of P57,000, including the salaries of the correspondents who will have to be employed therefor. Accordingly, I hereby amend the 1939 Budget by adding a new item under "Special Purposes," Department of Agriculture and Commerce, which should read as follows:

"21.

For expenses of the Bureau of Commerce for establishing and maintaining cablegraphic service on prices of important export products of the Philippines, market conditions and other trade informations between Manila and important trade centers abroad, to be spent with the approval of the President

Commonwealth Act No. 242 grants the City of Manila a yearly aid of P1,000,000 for public works, to be provided in the annual General Appropriation Act. Although, in the preparation of the 1939 Budget, the amount needed to meet this yearly outlay was set aside, the corresponding item has not been included in the said budget. Pursuant to the above-mentioned law, I also hereby recommend the inclusion in the 1939 Budget of an additional item under "Special Purposes", Department of Public Works and Communications, as follows:

"23.

Aid to the City of Manila for construction of public improvements to be expended at the discretion of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, Commonwealth Act No. 242

Under section 2553(a) of the Administrative Code, the City of Baguio has been given a yearly aid from the National Government which formerly amounted to as high as P150,000. During the last several years, in consonance with the retrenchment policy of the National Government, the amount of this aid was gradually reduced and since last year only P10,000 has been given annually. The City of Baguio is now undertaking a vast program of public improvements which requires large outlay of funds. To enable the said City to accomplish the early termination of such improvements, I recommend that for the year 1939 the amount of aid to the same be increased to P100,000 on condition that this amount shall be spent exclusively for the construction of public improvements at the discretion of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications. Accordingly, it is requested that Item E-IV-13 for P10,000 under the Department of Finance be suppressed, and in lieu thereof, the following new item be inserted under Special Purposes for the Department of Public Works and Communications:

Contribution to the City of Baguio under section 2553 (a) of Act No. 2711, as amended, to be spent for the construction of public improvements at the discretion of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding

The above stated aids to the Cities of Manila and Baguio for public improvements replace Item 8 of P818,700.00 under Special Purposes, Department of Public Instruction, in the 1939 Budget for maintenance and operation of primary schools in said cities, the elimination of which is also hereby requested.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on Consideration of Ten Bills, May 23, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Consideration of Ten Bills**

[Released on May 23, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In addition to the bills already submitted to you by the Executive and covered by special messages and certificates of the urgency of the enactment thereof, I have the honor to submit for consideration during your special sessions, pursuant to the provisions of Proclamation No. 272, dated May 19, 1938, the following measures:

1. *Bill No. 3360.*—An Act authorizing the chartered City of Cebu to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds to construct necessary sewer facilities in said city, and authorizing also a National Government bond issue secured by said city bonds.
2. *Bill No. 3384.*—Ley que enmienda los artículos uno y cinco de la Ley Número Cuatro mil ciento cincuenta y uno, de modo que las disposiciones de dicha ley sean también aplicables a cualesquier ciudadanos extranjeros o a aquellos cuya ciudadanía no está bien definida, y consigna fondos para dicho propósito.
3. *Bill No. 3478.*—An Act creating an animal utilization service in the Bureau of Animal Industry and appropriating funds for its establishment, equipment, maintenance, and operation.
4. *Bill No. 3547.*—An Act amending some of the provisions of Chapter Thirty-one (Medical Law) of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, commonly known as the Administrative Code of nineteen hundred and seventeen, as amended by Act Numbered Four thousand and seven.
5. *Bill No. 3681.*—Ley que revisa, reforma y consolida todas las leyes referentes a carreras de caballos, y provee penas para su infracción.
6. *Bill No. 3700.*—An Act to amend sections sixty-two and sixty-eight of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and thirty-seven, known as the “Mining Act.”
7. *Bill No. 3741.*—An Act to amend sections one, four, eleven, twelve, and sixteen of Act Numbered Thirty-one hundred and five, entitled “An Act regulating the practice of public accounting; creating a Board of Accountancy; providing for examination for the granting of certificates and the registration of Certified Public Accountants; for the suspension or revocation of certificates, and for other purposes” as amended, and for other purposes.
8. *Bill No. 3841.*—An Act authorizing the chartered City of Davao to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds to construct necessary sewer facilities and other permanent improvements in said City, and authorizing also a National Government bond issue secured by said city bonds.
9. *Bill No. 3413.*—An Act to provide for the use of a certificate of identification and residence by certain residents of the Philippines of the age of twenty-one and under seventy years, and notation thereof on every notarial document.

10. *Bill No. 3748*.—An Act to amend paragraph numbered 4, under D-IV-Special Appropriations, section two, pages fifty-nine and sixty, English version, of Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred forty-five pertaining to the appropriation of the Department of the Interior so as to reitemize Item D-IV-(j) thereof and for other purposes.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Consideration of Bills Nos. 3843 and 3395, May 24, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Consideration of Bills Nos. 3843 and 3395**

[Released on May 24, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with my message to you dated May 23, 1938, I have the honor to submit for consideration during your special sessions, pursuant to the provisions of Proclamation No. 272, dated May 20, 1938, Bill No. 3843, entitled “An Act appropriating the amount of one thousand pesos for the construction of the Biri Elementary School, Calbiga, Samar” and Bill No. 3395, entitled “An Act to amend section three of Commonwealth Act No. 195”.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3307, June 4, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**VETO OF BILL No. 3307—
OPTIONAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**

[June 4, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

After a conscientious study of Bill No. 3307 of the National Assembly, entitled “An Act to carry out more effectively the provisions contained in section nine hundred twenty-eight of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred eleven, known as the Administrative Code, and in section five, article thirteen of the Constitution, regarding optional religious instruction,” I have come to the conclusion that it is unconstitutional, and therefore I deem it my duty to veto the same. My conclusion is based on the following grounds:

First.—Contrary to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (1), of the Constitution, the real subject of the bill is not expressed in its title.

Second.—In violation of the cardinal principle of constitutional law that a discretionary power granted by the Constitution to the Executive may not be abridged by either the Legislative or the Judicial branch of the Government, the bill restricts the discretion vested by the Constitution in the Superintendent of Schools to fix the hour for religious instruction in the public schools.

Third.—The bill substantially changes the policy embodied in section 928 of the Administrative Code regarding optional religious instruction, the maintenance of which is ordained by the Constitution.

Article VI, section 12, paragraph (1) of the Constitution provides:

“No bill which may be enacted into law shall embrace more than one subject which shall be expressed in the title of the bill.”

The title of the bill under consideration reads: “An Act to carry out more effectively the provisions contained in section 928 of Act No. 2711, known as the Administrative Code, and in section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution.” According to this title, the object of the bill is merely the enforcement of section 928 of the Administrative Code and the compliance with the provisions of section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution. The truth, however, is that section 1 of the bill not only amends the language but also violates the spirit of section 928 of the Administrative Code and thereby contravenes section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution. This is clear from a mere comparison of section 928 of the Administrative Code with article 1 of the bill.

The real and true objective of those who favored the passage of the bill can easily be perceived by following the different steps taken by those who advocated it from the time the movement was initiated to change the present practice followed in the public schools with reference to religious instruction.

The movement was started with a letter written by a large number of members of the National Assembly and addressed to the Secretary of Public Instruction wherein the Secretary was asked to promulgate new rules governing religious teaching in the public schools. Upon receiving the answer of the Secretary of Public Instruction denying the petition, a series of bills were presented in succession, all practically with the same title and for the same purpose. These bills were entitled: "An Act providing for a course in character building and good manners and right conduct or in religion in the public schools, and for other purposes," and they provided for compulsory instruction in character building and good manners and right conduct, recognizing at the same time, however, the right of the parents or guardians to have their instruction in lieu of that in character building and good manners and right conduct.

When the question of the constitutionality of these different bills was raised on the floor of the National Assembly, those who advocated their passage were forced to present as a substitute, the bill under discussion, which apparently was approved on the assumption that the change in its title and provisions had made it conform to the Constitution. In this bill, the provision regarding the course in character building, good manners and right conduct, has been eliminated and only the subject of religious instruction is left. But, while it purports merely to enforce the provisions of section 928 of the Administrative Code, it prescribes certain directions and requirements which would have the effect, if complied with, of giving religious instruction in the public schools a category which it does not possess under section 928 of the Administrative Code. Thus, while under this legal provision religious instruction is merely tolerated, under section 1 of the bill, it is made a desired, if not a preferred subject.

To show the difference in practice between section 928 of the Administrative Code and section 1 of the bill, it is enough to bear in mind the legislative and administrative contemporary interpretation of Act No. 74 of the Philippine Commission approved on January 21, 1901, from which Act section 928 of the Administrative Code was taken. Since the passage of Act No. 74, the Division Superintendent of Schools, in fixing the hour for religious instruction, always took into account the school hours and school activities in each school in order that it might not interfere with the teaching of other subjects or with other school activities which the pupils were required to attend.

The policy and practice thus established is reversed or modified under the provisions of section 1 of the bill. Here, the Superintendent of Schools is directed to fix an hour for religious instruction "which shall be neither too early nor too late; neither shall it be an hour which coincides with other school activities, such as athletics, military training, singing and musical programs, rehearsals, society meetings, recesses and recreations, and cleaning by the students of the school premises, nor shall athletics and military training take place immediately before the classes in religion." It is evident, therefore, that the intention of the bill is that if the program of classes and school activities fills entirely the school hours both in the morning and afternoon session as is now the case, one of the subjects or one of the school activities must be either eliminated or assigned an hour outside of the regular school hours, in order that the classes in religious instruction may be held as required by the bill.

It is thus manifest that the real intent and purpose of the bill is not the enforcement of section 928 of the Administrative Code, as expressed in its title, but the amendment thereof which cannot be done under the Constitution.

II

Article XIII, section 5, of the Constitution, in part, provides:

"Optional religious instruction in the public schools shall be maintained as now authorized by law."

The law authorizing religious instruction in the public schools at the time of the approval of the Constitution is contained in sections 927 and 928 of the Administrative Code, reading as follows:

“SEC. 927. *Discussion of religious doctrines to be eschewed.*—No teacher or other person engaged in any public school, whether maintained from Insular, provincial, or municipal funds, shall teach or criticize the doctrines of any church, religious sect, or denomination, or shall attempt to influence the pupils for or against any church or religious sect. If any teacher shall intentionally violate this section he or she shall, after due hearing, be dismissed from the public service.”

“SEC. 928. *Provision for religious instruction by local priest or minister.*—It shall be lawful, however, for the priest or minister of any church established in the town where a public school is situated, either in person or by a designated teacher of religion, to teach religion for one-half hour three times a week, in the school building, to those public school pupils whose parents or guardians desire it and express their desire therefor in writing filed with the principal teacher of the school, to be forwarded to the division superintendent, who shall fix the hours and rooms for such teaching. But no public school teachers shall either conduct religious exercise or teach religion or act as a designated religious teacher in the school building under the foregoing authority, and no pupils shall be required by any public school teacher to attend and receive the religious instruction herein permitted. Should the opportunity thus given to teach religion be used by the priest, minister, or religious teacher for the purpose of arousing disloyalty to the United States, or of discouraging the attendance of pupils at such public school, or creating a disturbance of public order, or of interfering with the discipline of the school, the division superintendent, subject to the approval of the Director of Education, may, after due investigation and hearing, forbid such offending priest, minister, or religious teacher from entering the public school building thereafter.”

As may be seen from the above-quoted provisions of the Administrative Code, the Division Superintendent of Schools is given full discretion to fix any hour for religious instruction, at any time during or outside of regular school hours, considering not only the convenience of the students who are to be given such instruction, but also the requirements of the curriculum and the program of other school activities. This discretion of the Division Superintendent of Schools is impaired by the bill to such an extent that he may even be forced to sacrifice required subjects or other school activities in order to give way to the teaching of religion.

It is an established principle of constitutional law that when the Constitution confers full discretion upon the Executive as to the exercise of a certain power and does not specifically authorize the legislature to regulate or limit that discretion, every enactment impairing the free exercise thereof constitutes an invasion of the constitutional authority of the executive, and is, therefore, null and void.

III

The bill lays down a new policy on religious instruction in the public schools which is essentially different from, if not contrary to, that embodied in sections 927 and 928 of the Administrative Code, which the Constitution ordains shall be maintained.

In order to fully understand the meaning and scope of sections 927 and 928 of the Administrative Code, it is necessary to recur to its source and origin, which is section 16 of Act No. 74 of the Philippine Commission, approved on January 21, 1901. This Act established the Department of Public Instruction, and in prescribing the powers and duties of that Department and its officials, it provided for optional religious instruction.

Prior to the approval of that Act, extended public hearings were held by the Philippine Commission. The question which aroused the greatest interest and caused the most spirited debates, not only amongst those who took part in the public hearings but also amongst the members of the Philippine Commission themselves, was precisely the question of religious teaching. There were two extreme views presented before the Philippine Commission: one opposing any and all kinds of religious instruction in the public schools, and another demanding that only the Catholic religion be taught in said schools. Commissioner Moses took the side of those who were opposed to the teaching of any religion in the public schools, upon the ground that to do so would be contrary to the principle of the separation of the Church and State. Every member of the Commission agreed that under the American system of government, with its doctrine of the separation of Church and State, the proposition that only the Catholic religion be taught in the public schools was inconceivable.

Mr. Taft who was then the President of the Commission, and later President of the United States, and until his death, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that country, in opposition to Commissioner Moses, took the stand that the public school buildings could be used for the teaching of religion without violating the doctrine of the separation of Church and State, if such teaching was given at a time when the school building was not needed for the purposes of a public school. In line with his theory, Mr. Taft submitted to the Commission an amendment to the bill, which was approved and became section 16 of Act No. 74, and reads as follows:

“No teacher or other person shall teach or criticize the doctrines of any church, religious sect or denomination, or shall attempt to influence the pupils for or against any church or religious sect in any public school established under this Act. If any teacher shall intentionally violate this section, he or she shall, after due hearing, be dismissed from the public service.

“Provided, however, that it shall be lawful for the priest or minister of any church established in the pueblo where a public school is situated, either in person or by a designated teacher of religion, to teach religion for half an hour three times a week in the school building to those public school pupils whose parents or guardians desire it and express their desire therefor in writing filed with the principal teacher of the school, to be forwarded to the Division Superintendent, who shall fix the hours and rooms for such teaching. But no public school teacher shall either conduct religious exercises or teach religion or act as a designated religious teacher in the school building under the foregoing authority, and no pupil shall be required by any public school teacher to attend and receive the religious instruction herein permitted. Should the opportunity thus given to teach religion be used by the priest, minister or religious teacher for the purpose of arousing disloyalty to the United States, or of discouraging the attendance of pupils at such public school, or creating a disturbance of public order, or of interfering with the discipline of the school, the Division Superintendent, subject to the approval of the General Superintendent of Public Instruction, may after due investigation and hearing, forbid such offending priest, minister or religious teacher from entering the public school building thereafter.”

This section was incorporated almost verbatim in sections 927 and 928 of the Administrative Code.

From the minutes of the Philippine Commission, vol. 1, pp. 171-180, the following is taken:

“He (Mr. Taft) reviewed the proposed amendment in detail, pointing out its specific provisions and limitations, from which it was shown that the only use that could be made of the school building under the section was a use which was not to conflict in any way with the use of the building for the purposes of a public school.”

Such then, as stated by its author, was the import and implication of the law which authorized the teaching of religion in the public schools. From the date that Act No. 74 of the Philippine Commission was approved to the time that it was incorporated in the Administrative Code and thereafter until the Constitutional Assembly approved section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution, the Division Superintendent of Schools only permitted the use of the school building- for the teaching of religion when it did not conflict “in any way with the use of the building for the purposes of a public school.”

The legal presumption is, of course, that when the Constitutional Assembly approved section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution, it was cognizant of the then existing law regarding religious instruction and the manner in which it was enforced by the Bureau of Education. Aside from this presumption, an examination of the records of the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention shows that the makers of the Constitution were fully informed of the law and existing regulations regarding optional religious instruction in the public schools when they approved section 5 of Article XIII of the Constitution.

The original proposition regarding religious instruction was presented by Delegate Norberto Romualdez, now member of the National Assembly and one of the authors of the bill under consideration, who, through Delegate Godofredo Reyes, presented it to Delegate Jose P. Laurel who was the Chairman of the Committee on Bill of Rights. The proposition of Delegate Romualdez reads: “* * * that in all public schools there shall be prescribed a course in moral ethics or the religion of the parents of the school children, at the option of the parents.” Delegate Romualdez wanted his proposition to be included in the Bill of Rights, but it was not included in the draft prepared by the

Committee. When the draft of the Constitution was presented to the Constitutional Convention, it contained a clause identical to section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution. Delegate Artadi offered an amendment to that clause as follows: “En todas las clases publicas se incluire entre las asignaturas la moral o instruccion religiosa a opcion de los padres o encargados de los discipulos.” (“In all the public schools there shall be included amongst the subjects, moral or religious instruction at the option of the parents or guardians of the pupils.”)

During the discussion of the amendment of Delegate Artadi, statements were made by several delegates which were recorded in the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention showing that the delegates knew that there was at that time a law authorizing optional religious instruction in the public schools and that they were also informed of the practice followed by the Division Superintendent of Schools in fixing the hour for the teaching of religion. Delegate Manuel Roxas who objected to the amendment offered by Delegate Artadi said that under existing law optional religious instruction was permitted in the public schools and explained the practice that was being followed. To this, Mr. Artadi answered: “That is precisely what I am opposing, the present provisions of the law * * *.” Other delegates of the Convention took part in the discussion and when the amendment of Mr. Artadi was put to a vote, it was voted down on a division, and the clause as now appears in section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution was approved by a vote *viva voce*.

As already stated, optional religious instruction was prescribed by law as early as 1901. Under said law and conformably to its provisions, rules and regulations were issued by the Bureau of Education which had been in force without change until 1934, prior to the approval of the Constitution. The members of the Constitutional Convention were cognizant of the provisions of the law and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Attempts were made to change the law. The Constitutional Convention rejected these attempts and went to the extent of specifically confirming and ratifying the legislation then in force.

To me, it is very clear that the National Assembly can in no manner amend the present law without violating section 5, Article XIII, of the Constitution. Any attempt, directly or indirectly, to give to religious teaching in the school an importance lesser or greater than is now accorded to it by law, would be unconstitutional. Even without recurring to the statements of Mr. Taft above adverted to, the letter and spirit of sections 927 and 928 of the Administrative Code which, by reference, have been made a part of the Constitution, clearly indicate, in my opinion, that the intent and purpose thereof, is merely to tolerate the teaching of religion in the public schools and not to give it such prominence or encouragement, as contemplated in the bill under consideration.

In view of the foregoing, I am returning Bill No. 3307 of the National Assembly without my signature.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 1613, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 1613—**

**Reimbursing necessary travelling expenses and actual subsistence of witnesses subpoenaed to give testimony
in the trial or investigation of criminal cases**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have to-day disapproved Bill No. 1613, entitled “Ley disponiendo el abono de los gastos de viaje y manutención de los testigos citados para declarar en el juicio o investigación de causas criminales.”

Act No. 3434, approved on November 28, 1928, already provides for the reimbursement by the provincial governments and by the government of the City of Manila of the necessary travelling expenses and actual subsistence of witnesses, *known to be indigent, whose testimonies are considered material and indispensable in the trial of criminal cases in Courts of First Instance*, whether testifying for the prosecution or for the defense. The present bill will supersede Act No. 3434 and will require such reimbursement, whether the witness is indigent or not, and whether his testimony is material and indispensable or not. It will also transfer the responsibility for the reimbursement of such expenses from the local governments to the National Government.

Without going into the question of whether the National Government has enough funds to cover the appropriation provided for in this bill, I believe that the bill is objectionable, because it is wrong policy to pay every witness in a criminal case his travelling and other necessary expenses. It is part of the civic duty of every person residing in the Philippines to help in the suppression of crimes by testifying in a criminal case at his own expense. While I would recognize a qualification of this duty so as to relieve indigent persons from the burden of travelling and subsistence expenses, as now provided in Act No. 3434, I cannot give my consent to a bill which will extend the same privilege to those who are not indigent and, therefore, can reasonably bear the burden of attendance in court to testify in a criminal case at their own expense.

The bill is, furthermore, objectionable, because it provides for the reimbursement of the expenses *of all witnesses whether their testimonies are considered material and indispensable or not*. The absence of any qualification on this matter will lend the system to very easy abuse.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 2331, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 2331—
Giving the Director of Public Works Authority to allow public ditches to be used for irrigation or for private
purposes**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2331, entitled “Ley que enmienda el artículo dieciséis de la Ley Número Mil quinientos once.”

I am not in favor of giving the Director of Public Works authority, as intended in the proposed measure, to allow public ditches to be used for irrigation or for private purposes, as to do so would be contrary to the old legal principle that property of public ownership is outside the commerce of men and should not be utilized for private purposes. Furthermore, a road ditch is built expressly for road drainage purposes and its conversion into an irrigation ditch or canal will not only interfere with the proper maintenance and upkeep work but will also so saturate and weaken the road beds that it may damage the sections thus affected.

For the reasons above stated, the bill is, in my opinion, not a wise measure and should be, as it is hereby, disapproved.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 2653, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 2653—
Appropriating P300,000 for the purpose of creating thirty health travelling units**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2653, entitled “An Act appropriating the sum of three hundred thousand pesos for the purpose of creating thirty health traveling units,” for the reason that funds are already provided for in the 1938 and 1939 General Appropriation Acts which, by administrative action, could be used for the purpose of carrying out the services proposed to be established in the bill.

If it is intended to appropriate additional funds for the purposes sought to be accomplished in the bill, I wish to invite your attention to the fact that the appropriations for recurring ordinary expenses authorized in the 1939 General Appropriation Act leaves, as excess of the ordinary income over the ordinary expenditures, only a small amount which is inadequate to take care of contingencies, especially at this time when revenue collections are not steady. In view of the unsettled conditions in many parts of the world which may in one way or another affect the Philippine national economy, and considering that the National Assembly did not act upon the various tax measures that I submitted to you during your last regular and special sessions, the situation demands the exercise of caution in adopting measures that would increase the recurring expenses of the operation of the Government.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3075, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3075—
Increasing the salaries of the Fiscal and the Chief of the Police and Fire Department of the City of Iloilo**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3075, entitled “An Act amending sections twenty-three, twenty-five, sixty-four, and seventy-one of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and fifty-eight, entitled ‘an Act establishing a form of government for the City of Iloilo’” for the reason that it seeks to increase the salaries of the Fiscal and the Chief of the Police and Fire Department of the City of Iloilo, which would mean additional burden to the finances of the said city. No representation has been made to me that the duties of the said officials have increased considerably so as to justify the increases in their salaries.

In connection with the proposal in the bill to authorize the Fiscal of the City of Iloilo to appear not only in the Municipal Court of said city but also in the Court of First Instance of Iloilo, I believe that it is high time for the adoption of a definite and uniform policy regarding the law departments of the several chartered cities throughout the Philippines. I propose that in all the chartered cities, with the exception of the City of Manila and the City of Baguio where conditions are different, the fiscal of the province to which they were attached prior to their incorporation as a city shall be, ex officio, the City Fiscal with a certain amount of increased remuneration to be paid out of the city funds, and that provision should be made for the creation of positions for one or more assistant fiscals in the said city to aid the Provincial Fiscal, the salary of which assistant fiscals shall be paid out of the funds of the city concerned. By following this policy, it is believed that the ends of the administration of justice in those cities would be best served and at the same time the newly created cities would be saved the expense of a city fiscal with a remuneration commensurate with the importance of his position. I, therefore, commend for your consideration at your next session the enactment of such measures as would be necessary to carry out the suggestion above made.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3250, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3250—
Granting compensation to barrio lieutenants and their substitutes**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3250, entitled “An Act to amend the Administrative Code, so as to grant compensation to barrio lieutenants and their substitutes.”

The enactment of the proposed measure into law would not only cause financial embarrassments to the municipalities but would also cause them to exceed the legal limitation upon the amounts expendable for salaries and wages. I would like to invite your attention to the fact that at present many of the municipalities cannot even provide the minimum rate of compensation of P360 per annum for their employees. Besides, the compensations provided for in the bill are too meager and barrio lieutenants and their substitutes should be made to feel that their positions carry more dignity if they remain honorary as they now are, rather than encumber them with a salary that is very inadequate.

Aside from the considerations above stated, I note that the proposed measure is defective because the authority granted to members of the municipal council to appoint rural policemen is not contained in the title of the bill, in violation of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (1) of the Constitution.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3252, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3252—
Making public school buildings available for the free use of Community Centers, Women's Clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations, and Local Adult Education Committees for their activities**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3252, entitled "An Act making public school buildings available for the free use of community centers, women's clubs, parent-teacher associations, and local adult education committees for their educational, social, and recreational activities."

Although I am in accord with the purpose of the bill, it is believed that its enactment into law is not necessary because the proposed objectives can be accomplished by administrative regulation. In this connection, I would like to invite your attention to section 917 (*f*) of the Revised Administrative Code which vests in the Division Superintendent of Schools the control over the use of the provincial and municipal school buildings and their use for other purposes than such as are incident to the conduct of public schools. The aforesaid provision of the Revised Administrative Code implies that the public schools may be used for the purposes mentioned in the proposed measure.

In view of the foregoing and in order not to make our statute books cumbersome with the approval of measure whose purposes may be accomplished through administrative regulation, I am constrained to disapprove the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3280, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3280—
Further amending the charter of the City of Davao**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3280, entitled “An Act amending Commonwealth Act Numbered Fifty-one, as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred nine, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Davao.”

I note that the proposed measure intends to eliminate from sections 12 and 34 of the Charter of the City of Davao the provision requiring the approval of the corresponding Department Secretary in matters regarding the fixing of the per diems of the members of the city council and the compensation of officers and employees of the said city specifically mentioned by law. The approval of the Department Head in such matters has been inserted in the Charter of the City of Davao as a matter of precaution. Without such approval the city councilors may abuse their power and may fix their per diems at the maximum rate or increase the salaries of certain officers and employees of the City of Davao, even if the financial condition of the city would not permit it. Davao is still a young city and I believe that for the purposes of a more efficient government, the present provision of the law intended to be eliminated from the Davao City Charter should be preserved.

One of the proposed amendments seeks to grant specific authority to the City Council to tax and regulate the establishment of cockpits as well as cockfighting. This amendment is unwise in view of the policy of the National Government to suppress gradually the cockfighting vice and other vices of similar nature.

The Secretary of the Interior has pointed out to me certain other objectionable features of the proposed amendments to the Davao City Charter and without the necessity of passing on such other objectionable features, I believe that the considerations above stated sufficiently warrant disapproval of the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3376, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3376—
Exempting from preventive detention persons accused of petty thefts or less serious physical injuries**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3376, entitled: “Ley declarando libres de detención preventiva a los acusados por faltas y delitos leves o menos graves con ciertas excepciones.”

While I view with sympathy the plight of accused persons who, for lack of means, cannot furnish bail, yet there are certain well established principles of criminal law,— among which is that an accused person must be arrested and provisionally detained while the case against him is pending final decision,—from which we cannot safely depart.

Section thirteen of General Orders Numbered Fifty-eight, as amended by Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and seventy-eight, already provides an exception to this rule by declaring as exempt from arrest those accused of offenses punishable by imprisonment of not over one month or by fine of not more than two hundred pesos. The bill above-referred to would extend this exception to persons accused of offenses punishable by imprisonment for not over six months or by fine of not more than six hundred pesos. This would extend the benefits of the law to persons accused of such serious offenses as resistance or disobedience to persons in authority, certain falsifications, certain classes of physical injuries, certain threats and coercions, certain classes of theft, and some forms of trespass to dwelling. I fear that the bill will aggravate the rising tide of criminality in the Philippines. Persons committing petty thefts or less serious physical injuries, for instance, will find encouragement in the belief that the State considers such offenses so harmless that it prohibits and penalizes the preventive detention of persons accused thereof. By so relaxing the law, the State will unwittingly become an abettor to its violation.

Furthermore, the bill will not only liberalize in the above particular the provisions of section thirteen of General Orders Numbered Fifty-eight, as amended, but will also eliminate certain good features of that law, to wit: (a) the provision that persons accused of physical injuries will not receive the benefits of the law; (b) the provision that a person who does not reside at the place where the crime is committed or who does not have a known place of residence therein shall, in every case, be required to give bail; and (c) the safeguard that a judge may, for good reasons, require an accused, otherwise exempted, to give bail before he may be released.

I believe that Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and seventy-eight, amending General Orders Numbered Fifty-eight, is as far as we can safely go in the matter, without jeopardizing public safety and public order.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3398, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3398—
Increasing the salary rates for municipal of officials in the specially organized provinces of Mindanao and
Sulu**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3398, entitled “An Act to amend section twenty-six hundred and fifteen of the Administrative Code.”

I am not in favor of increasing the salary rates for mayors, secretaries, and treasurers of municipalities in the specially organized provinces of Mindanao and Sulu, as it will mean additional financial burden on the part of the municipalities concerned.

It is true that the bill seeks to give to municipal officials of specially organized provinces the same rates of salaries as those for the corresponding municipal officials in regularly organized provinces. It must be noted, however, that specially organized provinces have until now been receiving financial aids even for their ordinary administrative expenses, both from the respective provincial governments and the National Government. The approval of this bill would consequently increase the expenses of the municipalities concerned for administrative purposes and may result in demands for increase in the aids that the respective provincial governments are now receiving from the National Government. The purpose of this bill is, therefore, inconsistent with the policy of gradually reducing the aid which the National Government is giving annually to specially organized provinces for expenses of administration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3566, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3566—
Appropriating fund for the establishment, maintenance, equipment, and operation of public dispensaries in
barrios and remote communities**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3566, entitled “An Act appropriating fund for the establishment, maintenance, equipment, and operation of public dispensaries throughout the different barrios and remote communities in the Philippine Archipelago” for the reason that funds are already provided in the 1938 and 1939 General Appropriation Acts to carry out the services proposed to be established in the bill.

If it is intended to appropriate additional funds for the purposes sought to be accomplished in the bill, I wish to invite your attention to the fact that the appropriations for recurring ordinary expenses authorized in the 1939 General Appropriation Act leave as an excess

of ordinary income over ordinary expenditures, only a small amount which is inadequate to take care of contingencies, especially at this time when revenue collections are not steady. In view of the unsettled conditions in many parts of the world which may in one way or another affect the Philippine national economy, and considering that the National Assembly did not act upon the various tax measures that I submitted to you during your last regular and special sessions, the situation demands the exercise of caution in adopting measures that would increase the recurring expenses of the operation of the Government.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3572, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3572—
Amending Section 18 of the Fisheries Act**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3572, entitled “Ley que enmienda el artículo diez y ocho de la Ley Número Cuatro mil tres, conocida por Ley de Pesquerías.”

This bill seeks to insert a proviso in section 18 of the Fisheries Act to the effect that no license shall be issued to fishing vessels unless at least 30 per cent of their licensed fishermen are Filipino or American citizens. Apparently aimed to benefit Filipino fishermen, the proviso will sanction the employment of foreign fishermen, in that it is assumed that 70 per cent of the fishermen employed in a fishing boat may be foreigners. This bill, together with its companion Bill No. 3573, which I have today also dis approved, will abandon the policy of strict nationalization of the fishing industry which underlies the Fisheries Act, and for this reason, I am constrained to disapprove the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3694, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3694—
Enabling the office of private education to maintain a close and rigid supervision over all private schools,
colleges, and universities**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3694, entitled “An Act to enable the office of private education to maintain a close and rigid supervision over all private schools, colleges, and universities, and to appropriate funds therefor.”

I am in favor of having the Office of Private Education exercise a close and rigid supervision over all private schools, colleges, and universities, as the title of the bill implies. I notice, however, that the main purpose of the proposed measure is to increase the present personnel of the Office of Private Education. The Vice-President and Secretary of Public Instruction has informed me that his office has not received from the Office of Private Education any request for additional funds for the expenses of the latter office. In view thereof and considering that in the 1938 General Appropriation Act, new positions were created in the Office of Private Education to take care of the increasing number of private schools and colleges, I do not see any necessity for the approval of the proposed measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3573, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3573—
Increasing the Fisherman's License fee to two pesos**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3573, entitled “Ley que eleva a dos pesos el derecho anual de licencia de pescador en escala comercial, enmendando al efecto la Ley de Pesquerías.”

This bill in effect repeals that portion of section 22 of Act No. 4003 which requires that no license as fisherman to work on vessels of more than three tons gross for the commercial catching of fish in national waters shall be issued except to citizens of the Philippines or of the United States or of countries the laws of which grant similar rights to citizens of the Philippines. The elimination of this requirement would place aliens on an equal footing with Filipino or American citizens, thereby opening an opportunity to the former to control the fishing industry in the Philippines. In other words, this bill would abandon the policy of strict nationalization of the fishing industry which underlies the Fisheries Act.

Furthermore, attention is invited to the fact that the title of the bill does not express the subject thereof. Although the title states that it seeks to increase the fishermen's license fee to two pesos, it will be noted that the body of the bill also seeks to eliminate, as already stated above, that proviso which prohibits the issuance of license as fisherman to work on vessels for the commercial catching of fish, except to citizens of the Philippines or of the United States or of countries the laws of which grant similar rights to citizens of the Philippines. This is contrary to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (1) of the Constitution, and on this ground alone this bill should be, as it is hereby, vetoed.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.)
President of the Philippines

MANUEL

L.

QUEZON

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3318, June 16, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3318—
Extending the effectivity of the City of Manila Reorganization Act**

[Released on June 16, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3318, entitled “Ley prorrogando hasta Diciembre de Mil novecientos treinta y ocho los efectos de la Ley Número Cuatro mil doscientos setenta de la Legislatura Filipina con una enmienda.”

I am constrained to veto this bill as it is believed that its purpose is only to grant gratuities to the employees and laborers of the City of Manila who wish to leave the service and not for the purpose of reorganizing the city government in order to effect economy. The approval of the proposed measure would cause financial embarrassment to the government of the City of Manila because at present the city government is not even able to solve the yearly recurring problem of financing its public schools and the National Government has to grant it an annual aid of P1,000,000 for public works purposes.

In view of the foregoing, and considering the fact that, according to the Secretary of the Interior, there is no necessity for further reorganization of the government of the City of Manila, I cannot give my approval to the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 2250, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 2250—
Giving the name of Celestino Aragon to a street in the City of Manila**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2250, entitled “An Act giving the name of Celestino Aragon to a street in Manila” on the ground that the changing of the names of streets will only create confusion in titles to registered lands and in deeds and contracts relating to real property in which the name of the street sought to be changed may appear as one of the boundaries of the property involved. To change the name of a street will necessitate the changing of such boundaries and thus entail expenses on the part of the parties concerned.

As nothing is to be gained by changing the names of streets, I wish to announce that hereafter I shall veto all bills of this nature. If it is the intention to honor any great man in the manner suggested in the proposed measure, this could be done by naming a new street after him instead of changing the names of streets which are already known to the public through long usage.

Furthermore, I wish to invite your attention to the fact that one of the two subjects of the proposed measure, namely to change the name of an alley in the City of Manila to that of “Pedro Zapanta” is not expressed in the title of the bill, in violation of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (1) of the Constitution. On this ground alone, the bill should be vetoed.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 2924, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 2924—
Exempting from the fixed tax business subject to the merchants' sales tax whose sales do not exceed P300
every three months**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2924, entitled “Ley eximiendo del impuesto fijo sobre negocios sujetos al impuesto del tanto por ciento a los comerciantes en pequeña escala cuyas ventas en bruto por trimestre no excedan de trescientos pesos.”

There are pending before the National Assembly measures to revise the sales tax. As previously announced I shall presently call the National Assembly to a special session for the purpose of revising our system of taxation. The purposes of the bill before me can be better served if and when the National Assembly takes up the general revision of the merchants' sales tax law.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on approval of Bill No. 3428, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On approval of Bill No. 3428**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 3428, entitled “An Act to amend items of appropriation under section one, paragraph *a*, of Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred forty,” with the exception of the following items:

Albay—Item													14
Camarines	Sur—Items		34,		34a,		34b,		34c		and		34d
Capiz—Items			34					and					39
Cavite—Item													10
Cotabato—Items	1,	2,	3,	4,	5,	6,	7,	8,	9,	10,	11,	and	12
Ilocos													40
Iloilo—Items	24,		24a,		24b,		24c,		25,		25a,	and	25b
Masbate—Items					12						and		16
Occidental								23			and		28
Pampanga—Items					15						and		15a
Sorsogon—Items					13						and		14
Tayabas—Item	19												

The suppression of item 58 under Ilocos Norte is hereby disapproved, for the reason that the fund for this item has already been released and the construction of the project authorized.

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 329.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3499, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3499**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have decided to withhold my signature on Bill No. 3499 creating the City of Lipa. I hesitated long between letting the bill lapse into law and announcing that I would not organize the city until certain features of the bill were amended, or veto the bill outright. At last I have adopted the latter course because I desire to submit this question *de novo* to the National Assembly at its next session.

This is the first time that a municipality, not the capital of a province, is given a special charter, taken out from the control of the province and granted the allotments which normally go to the province. This bill, therefore, initiates a new policy in the establishment of political subdivisions of the Philippines which, in the long run, may affect the reorganization of the provinces themselves. If the National Assembly should insist in passing this bill at its next session, I shall not object to it.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 2156, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 2156**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2156, entitled “An Act appropriating two and one-half million pesos for the classification, survey, and subdivision of public agricultural lands.”

I would have been willing to approve this bill which has for its main purpose the acceleration of the development of our public agricultural lands, had you included in it the proviso recommended by our finance officials authorizing the President of the Philippines to suspend or otherwise stop the expenditure of the amount herein appropriated if the public interest so demands. The Commissioner of the Budget has reported to me that the appropriation for the recurring expenses authorized in the 1939 General Appropriation Act leaves, as an excess of ordinary income over ordinary expenditures, only a small amount which is inadequate to take care of contingencies, especially at this time when the revenue collections are not steady. Insertion of a proviso of suspension of expenditures, as above pointed out, would have constituted a sufficient safeguard to meet any contingency that may arise affecting the stability of the National Budget.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3106, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3106—
Reducing the cost of cadastral surveys made by corporations of private surveyors**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Once more I am vetoing Bill No. 3106, entitled “Ley para reducir el costo de las mediciones de los proyectos catastrales llevados a cabo por corporaciones de agrimensores particulares y destina fondos al efecto”, which has been repeatedly introduced and passed by the National Assembly on the same ground that I vetoed it the last time. The private parties who undertook to make these surveys did it with the expectation of reaping a large profit and now that they are not able to collect their fees, they want the National Government to come to their rescue. These parties did not do the work with any special desire to render a public service, but purely as a business proposition and on a business basis. They have no right to ask relief from the National Government.

I shall, however, consider favorably a bill that will permit the assumption by the National Government of the obligation of the landowners and the responsibility for its collection, provided that the amount to be paid to the private surveyors shall not be in excess of what it would have cost, had the Government undertaken these cadastral surveys itself.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 2654, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 2654**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2654, entitled “An Act granting to Ricardo Gemora the right to sell, convey, assign, or transfer his franchise and all property and rights acquired thereunder to install, operate, and maintain an electric current, heat, and power system in the Municipality of Hog, Province of Occidental Negros, in favor of Mrs. Esperanza Lucerna.”

The records of the Public Service Commission show that by virtue of Act No. 3781, approved on November 28, 1930, Ricardo Gemora was granted a franchise for the maintenance and operation of an electric plant in the Municipality of Ilog, Province of Occidental Negros, in accordance with the terms of Act No. 3636, known as the Uniform Electric Franchise Law. On December 2, 1930, Mr. Gemora filed with the Public Service Commission an application for a certificate of public necessity and convenience, which the Commission granted by its decision, dated November 7, 1932, the formal Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity having been issued to him on December 14, 1932. However, Mr. Gemora has up to this date not filed with the Commission his written acceptance of the franchise and has not deposited with the Treasurer of the Philippines the bond in the amount of P1,000, required by sections eight and nine of the aforesaid Act No. 3636. In view thereof, on the date when Bill No. 2654 was approved by the National Assembly, authorizing Ricardo Gemora to sell or transfer his franchise and other property rights acquired under Act No. 3781, the aforesaid Ricardo Gemora no longer had such rights, because those rights had lapsed in view of his failure to comply with the provisions of Act No. 3636, above cited. I assume that the National Assembly was not informed of these facts, when it approved the bill under consideration. If it is the intention of the National Assembly to grant to Mrs. Lucerna the rights and interests in the franchise originally given to Ricardo Gemora under Act No. 3781, there is no objection to the passage and approval of a bill directly granting to Mrs. Lucerna the franchise in question.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3501, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3501**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3501, entitled “An Act to amend section one of Act Numbered Thirty-four hundred and thirty-six, entitled ‘An Act granting to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company a franchise to install, operate, and maintain a telephone system throughout the Philippines.’”

On November 28, 1928, the “Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company” was granted a franchise to install, operate, and maintain telephone systems covering the most feasible following routes: Manila-Baguio, including all provinces traversed and Manila-Iloilo-Negros-Cebu, including all provinces and islands traversed. The present bill will grant to the Telephone Company the authority to operate the following additional lines: Manila-Albay, including all provinces and islands traversed, Manila-Camarines Sur, including all the provinces traversed, Manila-Davao, including all the provinces traversed, and Manila-Tayabas, including all the provinces traversed. The bill would in effect grant to the Telephone Company the right to operate practically in all parts of the Philippines south of Baguio, and would undoubtedly affect the rights of some provinces and municipalities which are now operating their own telephone service.

The Telephone Company has, on various occasions, attempted to obtain from the Philippine Legislature the extension of its franchise to other routes and lines, in addition to those granted in its original franchise; but so far it has been unsuccessful, undoubtedly because there has been no decision as yet as to the proper policy to adopt in this respect, the Government itself having its own telegraph service and many of the provinces and municipalities their own telephone systems, even before the telephone franchise was originally granted. Notwithstanding its inability to get legislative action, the Telephone Company has been extending its lines and the present bill, I am informed, is intended to legalize the existence of these extensions.

Cognizant of the above facts, and in view of the express provision of the Constitution authorizing the Commonwealth Government, in the interest of national welfare and defense to establish and operate means of communication, I have appointed sometime ago a board on telegraph and telephone communications, in order that this matter may be given thorough consideration and study, so that the Government may finally adopt a definite policy on the subject. Until then, I believe it inexpedient to approve any extension of the present franchise of the Telephone Company such as is contemplated in the bill under consideration, unless it be provided therein that in the event the Government should decide to maintain and operate for itself such service, the grantee shall surrender the franchise and turn over to the Government all serviceable equipment at cost. The bill before me does not contain such provision.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3500, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3500**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3500, entitled “Ley concediendo a la corporacion ‘Jai-Alai Manila, Inc’. un privilegio para construir, explotar y mantener en la Ciudad de Manila, Filipinas, un fronton de pelota vasca,” upon the ground that it is of very doubtful constitutionality. Section 7, Article XIII, of the Constitution provides that “the National Assembly shall not, except by general law, provide for the formation, organization or regulation of private corporations, unless such corporations are owned or controlled by the Government or any subdivision or instrumentality thereof.” It is apparent from the provisions of the bill that, in effect, it is in the nature of a franchise granted to Jai-Alai Manila, Inc., to conduct this particular business (pelota vasca) which can not be otherwise pursued by it if it were to incorporate only under the general corporation law. It has been held that “under a constitutional limitation prohibiting the formation of a corporation by special act * * * the grant by special act of a power or franchise to a corporation formed under a general act which could not be acquired by such a corporation under a general act, is a violation of the constitutional provision.” (26 C. J., p. 1025.)

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3506, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To to the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3506**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3506, entitled “An Act to amend section twelve hundred ninety of the Administrative Code,” as the authority intended to be given to the Collector of Customs to impose, in his discretion, surcharges in case of undervaluation and misdescription in the declaration and entry of a merchandise is a very dangerous power to grant unchecked. I would have had no objection to this proposed amendment if the revision of the surcharges were subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance or the President.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3585, June 18, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To to the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3585**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3585, entitled “An Act to condone penalties on real estate taxes incurred prior to the year nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, provided that delinquent landowners shall pay said taxes without penalty within a period of one year from the date of the approval of this Act,” for the following reasons:

1. The approval of this bill would create an unsound precedent as it is likely that in the future taxpayers would default willfully in the payment of their taxes, expecting that sooner or later the penalties will again be condoned.
2. The remission of real property tax penalties would be a discrimination against those who have already paid their taxes in arrears unless a provision is made for the return or refund of such penalties already paid, in which case it is feared that such refund will cause serious financial embarrassment to the local governments for the reason that the collected penalties may have already been spent.
3. Relief in the form of remission of penalties should be resorted to only in very exceptional cases as where there is general failure of crops or similar widespread disaster in any municipality or province, resulting in the absolute inability of taxpayers to meet their obligations to the Government. Such situation does not obtain at present as shown by the fact that a big majority of the taxpayers in the provinces have already paid their taxes for 1937.
4. The purpose of the bill may be accomplished through administrative action under the present law. Section 58 of Act No. 3995 empowers the President of the Philippines to remit or reduce the real property tax for any year in any municipality or province if he deems that the public interest so requires.

In view of the reasons above stated, and taking into consideration that when I signed on October 6, 1938, Bill No. 264 (now Commonwealth Act No. 35), which provided in part for the consolidation of all taxes on real property and the penalties due thereon and setting aside forfeitures theretofore effected, I then announced that it was the last time that I would sign a bill of this nature, I regret to inform you that I can not approve the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3633, June 18, 1938
Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3633

[Released on June 18, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Upon the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and Communications and the Public Service Commission, I am vetoing Bill No. 3633, entitled “Ley que reforma el inciso (g) del articulo ocho de la Ley Número Tres mil novecientos noventa y dos, denominada ‘Ley Revisada de Vehiculos de Motor,’ tal como ha sido enmendado por la Ley Numero Ciento veintitrés del Commonwealth” on the ground that it is not in the public interest.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on proposed ordinance by Municipal Councils of Pampanga, June 20, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On proposed ordinance by Municipal Councils of Pampanga**

[Released on June 20, 1938]

My dear Governor Baluyot:

My attention has been called to news items appearing in the newspapers to the effect that there is a plan or move to have the municipal councils of Pampanga approve a municipal ordinance “prohibiting the promotion of hatred between classes, the spread of communistic teachings and dogmas, the assemblage of questionable characters, the wanton destruction of property, the penalty thereof, and other purposes.”

The alleged proposed ordinance is not only so illegal on its face but also so foolish, that I would not give it any importance except for the fact that people may be induced to believe that the Government is going to countenance such an arbitrary action on the part of any Government employee. I hope it is not necessary for me to tell you that no ordinance of this sort should be tolerated.

In order that there may not be any misunderstanding as to my purposes in my conference with the provincial and municipal officials of Pampanga and Tarlac, I desire to re iterate that when I told the municipal mayors that the Government would not tolerate violations of the law in respect to the holding of meetings or public demonstrations, I meant to convey the idea that they should not permit gatherings of a large number of people for the purpose of preventing citizens from attending to their lawful pursuit, or of coercing them through positive acts or through intimidation into joining organizations, especially those of doubtful legality, against their will, or when such gatherings are likely to produce or cause public disorder or alarm. You will recall that my remarks on this point were made as a result of information given during the conference that in certain sections of the Province of Pampanga, night gatherings were being brought about through the use of the “tambuli”; that those gatherings, generally resorted to for the purpose of getting new followers for some associations, have been causing alarm among the peaceful people; and that in several instances, large groups of people pertaining to some labor associations were used for the purpose of preventing the laborers of certain landowners to pursue their daily labor or of forcing upon the said landowners the labor of other people not acceptable to the landowners. It was because of these occurrences that I directed the mayors to be on the lookout for any violations of the law, and counselled them to pass ordinances so as to make it necessary in the future to obtain the necessary permission from the authorities in order to hold such gatherings, and to prohibit the use of the “tambuli” and other similar contrivances for such purposes.

If the reports as to the alleged form of the proposed ordinance are correct, it is not only not in accordance with this direction but also, as I have already stated, entirely untenable under a democratic form of Government.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Sotero Baluyot
Provincial Governor
San Fernando, Pampanga.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3384, June 21, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3384**

[Released on June 21, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3384, entitled “An Act to amend sections one and five of Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and fifty-one, so as to extend the benefits thereof to foreign citizens or persons whose citizenship has not been established, and to appropriate funds therefor,” as the objective of Act No. 4151 was to benefit only American citizens who preferred to retire from the government service on account of the establishment of the Commonwealth Government. To extend the operation of this Act so as to include aliens or foreigners will be an abandonment of the objective above stated. In view thereof and upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Budget and the Commissioner of Civil Service, I am constrained to veto this bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3841, June 21, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3841**

[Released on June 21, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, the Auditor General, the Commissioner of the Budget and the Treasurer of the Philippines, who informed me that the amount of the contemplated bond issue for the purpose of financing the construction of sewer facilities and other permanent improvements in the City of Davao is not within the net paying capacity of the said City, I have today disapproved Bill No. 3841, entitled “An Act authorizing the chartered City of Davao to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds to construct necessary sewer facilities and other permanent improvements in said city, and authorizing also a National Government Bond issue secured by said city bonds.” However, realizing the necessity of having cities and municipalities establish their own sewer systems as a measure to protect the health and to promote the well-being of their inhabitants, I shall have no objection to the reenactment of the bill, provided that the amount involved is reduced to a sum not exceeding the net paying capacity of the City of Davao and provided further that such reduced amount would be sufficient to finance the proposed project.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on approval of Bill No. 3811, June 21, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On approval of Bill No. 3811**

[Released on June 21, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have today approved Bill No. 3811, entitled “An Act to incorporate the City of Tagaytay, and for other purposes,” despite one unconstitutional provision therein inserted; namely, that which authorizes the mayor to release any person imprisoned for violation of a city ordinance and remit the sentence of such person or any part thereof, because I shall recommend to you the elimination of said provision at your next session and further because the mayor will not be allowed in any event to exercise that power which under the Constitution is vested only in the President of the Philippines.

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 338.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on approval of Bill No. 3478, June 21, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On approval of Bill No. 3478**

[Released on June 21, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 3478, entitled “An Act creating an animal utilization service in the Bureau of Animal Industry and appropriating funds for its establishment, equipment, maintenance, and operation,” which now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 340. In view of the report submitted to me by the Commissioner of the Budget to the effect that the appropriation for recurring expenses in the 1939 Budget leaves, as an excess of ordinary income over ordinary expenditures, only a small amount which is inadequate to take care of contingencies, I desire that no step be taken under the provisions of this law without the previous approval of this Office.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3395, June 22, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3395**

[Released on June 22, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3395, entitled "An Act to amend section three of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and ninety-five."

This is a bill which I permitted to be considered among others during your last special session in view of representations made to me that the extension of the effective date of Commonwealth Act No. 195 from July 1, 1938, to July 1, 1940, was justified and would cause no harm to the public interest. I have now before me the study made by the Secretary of Finance, the Commissioner of the Budget, and the Collector of Internal Revenue and they all recommend disapproval of the bill on the ground that its enactment into law will adversely affect the yearly income of the National Government. The Commissioner of the Budget further informs me that the additional revenue expected to be realized from the enforcement of Commonwealth Act No. 195 was taken into consideration in estimating the income of the National Government in the 1939 Budget, which served as the basis for the estimate of the expenditures for that year.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3547, June 22, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On Veto of Bill No. 3547**

[Released on June 22, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3547, entitled “An Act amending some of the provisions of chapter thirty-one (Medical Law) of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, commonly known as the Administrative Code of nineteen hundred and seventeen, as amended by Act Numbered Four thousand and seven.”

Under the provisions of Act No. 4007, known as the Reorganization Law of 1932, all of the sixteen boards of examiners were reorganized and placed on the same level by requiring that all of the said Boards of Examiners shall each be composed of a chairman and two members who shall serve for a period of one year and shall receive compensation not to exceed five pesos per capita of the candidates examined, and that the results of the examinations shall be reported to the Commissioner of Civil Service as the executive officer of the boards, who shall in turn submit such results to the corresponding Secretary of Department for approval. The proposed measure, however, seeks to place the Board of Medical Examiners in a class by itself by providing, among others, that the term of the members of the Board of Medical Examiners shall be for a period of five years, that the compensation of the members of the Board be increased from five to ten pesos for each candidate examined, and eliminating the requirement in the present law that the results of all examinations be submitted to the Department Head concerned for confirmation.

No representation has been made to me that the duties of the members of the Board of Medical Examiners have increased to such an extent as to justify the proposed increase in their compensation. All the boards of examiners are, in their respective fields, charged by law with the same duties and responsibilities which would seem to indicate that there is a sound basis for uniformity in compensation, tenure of office and in the procedure of conducting examinations, and I can not, therefore, see any reason why the Board of Medical Examiners should be given certain special considerations which are denied to the other boards.

In view thereof, I am constrained to veto this bill.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Election Law, New Taxation Measures, Religious Instruction, and the Work of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, July 25, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**THE ELECTION LAW, NEW TAXATION MEASURES,
RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, AND THE WORK OF
THE JOINT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
ON PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS**

[Delivered at the opening of the fifth special session of the National
Assembly, July 25, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have called this Honorable Body into special session so that you may enact a law fixing the date for the election of the members of the National Assembly, their term of office to commence on the 15th of November, 1938, the date when, under the Constitution, the terms of the present members shall expire. In this connection, I desire to invite your attention to the need of amending the Election Law, so as to prohibit and punish certain practices not covered by existing legislation. These practices are well known greatly to increase expenditures of the candidates and tend to vitiate the elections. Determined as we are to establish democracy firmly and permanently in our country, we must exercise the strictest vigilance to maintain the streams of free popular expression unpolluted and undefiled. Above all we must guard the ballot box against the pernicious influence of money, and guarantee to every citizen that the lack of wealth shall not be a bar to his seeking an opportunity to serve this nation. I trust, therefore, that you will be able to accord to this matter early consideration.

It was my intention, and have so announced, to submit to you at this session certain measures recommended by the Department of Finance relative to taxation. This was deemed necessary, first, because there was urgent need of more funds to provide for the increase this year in the public school enrollment, which could not be met with estimated ordinary revenues; and second, in order that our system of taxation may be more in accord with the policy to which we are committed—a just distribution of the tax burden upon the principle of ability to pay. It now appears that we have collected during the first six months of this year several million pesos more than was estimated in the Budget. It is not necessary, therefore, to enact at this time any tax measure to raise funds to defray the urgent expenses of the Government for the Bureau of Education and other necessary activities. In view of this fact, I have decided not to ask you at this special session to consider tax legislation, leaving the matter for your next regular session.

The imposition of new taxes is always a serious matter, especially if it means a fundamental change in the policies underlying the public revenue system. The adoption of new theories of taxation already accepted in other progressive countries, as well as by competent students of public finance, is not the only question which should merit consideration. Equally important, and in our particular case, probably more so, is the rationalization of these theories in regard to the particular social and economic organization of our people, so that they may not in practice bring greater evils than those they are intended to remedy.

The power to tax can be and should be used both to produce revenues for the Government, and as an instrument to mold and direct the social and economic organization of the country. If, however, this latter function is to be accomplished successfully, with the least possible inconvenience or injury either to individuals or the body politic, this great power should be employed only after careful deliberation. If the proverb that “to go fast one must go slowly is ever true, it is so in the case of social or economic reforms. It is evidently the better part of wisdom for us to take more time—since we can do this without jeopardizing the solvency of the public treasury—in the study of the tax measures that are proposed for enactment, hearing those who wish to be heard, and thoroughly examining every aspect of the questions involved.

Everyone should realize that the people of the Philippines are, absolutely as well as relatively, among the least taxed people in the world. On the other hand, we cannot stagnate; we must make progress; we are far from performing adequately the most elementary duties of government. Hundreds of thousands of children are still being deprived of the opportunity to enter the primary schools, despite the injunction of the Constitution that no child of school age be deprived of this privilege. The health of our people is not being properly protected, and there are many other essential activities which the Government should undertake and which have not so far been done for lack of funds. We must, therefore, insure a larger income from the Government, within the limits, of course, of the economic capacity of the country to provide that income. This means that we must not only revise our system of taxation to conform with the principle of the ability to pay, but also with a view to increasing our revenues.

For the stability of business and in order that those who are engaged in productive enterprise may be in a position to plan their respective industries, bearing in mind their obligations to the Government, together with all other items and factors which determine their costs and risks, it is most desirable that our tax structure possess some degree of permanency. To avoid frequent changes in our tax laws so disturbing to business, we should endeavor to estimate the probable and inevitable increase in the expenditures of the Government during the next ten years, so that revenue laws may be passed adequately to meet such requirements. I, therefore, propose the appointment of a commission which will study our tax system, considering the growing cost of public education with the increase of our population, the greater expenditures in the maintenance of roads which are being built under the four-year program which you have approved in your last session, and other essential activities of the Government which, as the years go by, will necessarily demand a progressively larger outlay. Needless to say, increased revenues may come not only from present sources, or from tapping new ones, but also from the creation of taxable wealth which it is to be hoped will result from the stimulation of our economic development to be planned by the National Economic Council.

There is one other subject which I deem it my duty to lay before you at this time.

By a large majority of the members of this body, a bill on religious instruction in the public schools (Bill No. 3307) was passed in your last regular session. I vetoed this bill and my veto message which is now in your possession states the reasons for my action.

Inasmuch as the National Assembly had already adjourned *sine die* when I vetoed the religious instruction bill, this body did not have an opportunity to reconsider the measure under the provisions of the Constitution, which would have permitted it to repass the bill, the veto of the President notwithstanding.

It is not my desire, nor do I consider it conducive to the public interest, to deprive you of the opportunity to take up this matter again, if you regard it your duty to do so, despite my veto and my reasons therefor. You can only do this, in my opinion, if I include this subject among the measures which may be taken up at this special session. I am affording to you constitutional authority to take it up, if you so desire. I have considered it advisable to do this, because I regard the controversies that have arisen in relation to the bill on religious instruction of such seriousness and importance, that it would be well for the whole nation and all the parties involved that they be settled now and forever. These controversies are pregnant with the seeds of popular dissension and I trust that the National Assembly will cooperate with me in my earnest endeavor toward our country against the bitter strifes that have arisen in other nations due to similar or allied causes. Let us not by our refusal to face these dangers merely postpone the inevitable conflict which, notwithstanding the sound and patriotic purposes of those engaged therein, will inevitably degenerate into a religious struggle with all its accompanying evils.

The religious instruction bill, after a thorough deliberation, was passed by this body by a vote of two-thirds of the members voting. Such a large majority could not but have weight in my mind when I took action on the bill. If I had any doubt as to the interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution in this regard, or if the questions involved were merely of policy, I might have been inclined to resolve the doubt in favor of the views of such a large majority of your members. I wish to state to you, however, that after a careful study and consideration I saw that my duty was plain and clear, for the provisions of the Constitution are so explicit that they left me no choice except to disapprove the bill. It must be borne in mind, moreover, that in consonance with most constitutions recognizing religious freedom and the separation of Church and State, our Constitution expressly prohibits the use of any public property, directly or indirectly, in the interest of any religion. Taking into consideration all these provisions of the Constitution, the conclusion is inescapable that the precept relating to religious instruction does not provide a limitation to rights that otherwise exist under the Constitution, but is permissive in nature and establishes a privilege which otherwise would not exist. This fact, by every rule of statutory construction, compels the strictest interpretation of such provisions. This was my conviction when I vetoed the measure, and I have not changed my views on the matter. I am deeply convinced that the bill which you passed was unconstitutional. Any other bill which you may pass amending the present law on religious instruction in the public schools will likewise be unconstitutional. If the National Assembly should again pass the same or any other similar bill, I shall veto it and send it back to you at this session that you may act on my veto.

It may not be amiss to reiterate that I am one of those who believe that religious instruction is not only good but also necessary for children of school age. As I stated in my veto message, I consider religion as a great power for good. It is stabilizing in its influence. It is good for the individual and good for the body politic. I believe also that the primary duty to teach religion devolves on the parents, if and when those parents profess a religion. Of course, it is a part of the essential functions of a church to teach religion to its faithful. I am prepared to give every facility for the teaching of religion to the youth of our country in accordance with the laws of the land.

But I can go no further. I am persuaded after a careful study, not only by the express provisions of the Constitution regarding this subject, but also by the essential implications from the doctrine of separation of Church and State, that the Government of the Philippines cannot do more in reference to religious instruction in the public schools, than what is now authorized by law. In other words, in order that the Government may allow the teaching of religion during school hours in place of curricular activities, it will be necessary not only to amend existing legislation which has been incorporated by reference into our Constitution, but also to repeal the provision of the Constitution establishing the separation of Church and State.

This was also the view of Taft, who contended that to permit religious instruction in the public schools during the hours when the buildings were required for school purposes would be a violation of the accepted constitution inhibitions intended to safeguard religious liberty and the separation of Church and State. As is well known, it was Taft who, in the face of strong opposition, was responsible for the teaching of religion in the public schools being permitted at all.

Much as I believe that religious instruction is necessary for our youth, and, therefore, much as I sympathize with the idea that somehow the Government should promote the teaching of religion, I must emphatically state that if this can be done only by undermining or in any way violating the doctrine of the separation of Church and State, I am irrevocably opposed to it. This attitude is dictated by what I consider my duty under the Constitution and by my own personal convictions. After all the obligation to teach religion resides in the parents and the Church, and should they comply with this duty, the spiritual need of the people in this respect would be amply provided for. A government that authorizes optional religious instruction in the public schools, as it is done in the Philippines, with the limitations imposed by the Constitution, is already supplementing in no inconsequential way that duty of the parents and of the Church. With the opportunities we offer in the public schools at present, the Government cannot be blamed if religion is not more generally taught.

As you well know, during my last visit to the United States, President Roosevelt, in consultation with me, appointed the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, composed of Americans and Filipinos, to study and make recommendations as to the future trade relations between the United States and the Philippines, with a view to a gradual, rather than an abrupt, elimination of trade preferences between the two countries. This action was prompted by a considered view of the injurious consequences to American-Philippine commerce, and particularly to the

integrity of the Philippine economy, if the trade provisions of the Independence Act were to be left unchanged. It was the consensus of opinion not only of the officials of the Government of the United States in charge of Philippine affairs, but also of the officials of the Philippine Government, that there exist some inequalities in the effects of these provisions which should be removed, and that they should otherwise be modified so as to give to the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust its economy. This opinion was entertained generally by Americans and Filipinos who are cognizant, either from study or actual experience, of the inevitably harmful results to Philippine economic interests of the enforcement of the trade provisions of the Independence Act after 1941 and 1946.

On another occasion, I advised you of the creation of this committee and of the members that constituted it. It is my pleasure now to inform you that the committee has concluded its work after a long, laborious and conscientious study of all phases of the problem. The committee did part of its work in the United States and part in the Philippines. It held hearings in both countries, and after the hearings it met first in Manila and then in Washington, and spent many months before it could come to a unanimous agreement upon its recommendations. Perhaps the recommendations of the report may not meet with the approval of everyone, but I am voicing the sentiments of the Filipino members in the committee when I say that the American members went as far as they honestly felt that they could go in meeting our views, and I hope that the American members will also feel that this had been the attitude of their Filipino colleagues. There was one common purpose and objective shared by all the members of the committee, Americans and Filipinos, and that was to do the best that they thought they could do under the circumstances in the interest equally of America and the Philippines.

I feel certain that you and our people unite with me in expressing to the members of the committee, both Americans and Filipinos, our grateful appreciation of their valuable work done with such high purpose and devotion. The President of the United States needs no praise from us, but I must say that the whole Philippine nation will never forget the kindly interest and concern which President Roosevelt has shown for our future welfare and security. May I also reiterate, that it may be recorded in the annals of our country, that the President, despite the grave problems which from the start have besieged his administration, has shown that his heart has never failed to throb for the liberty and happiness of the Filipino people, and that his active mind has been always seeking the best course leading to the attainment of these noble aims, with the least possible suffering for our people.

I have in my possession an official copy of the report and the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs. I am constrained to withhold transmittal to you now of this report, because I have been asked by the President of the United States to keep it confidential until such time when, in consultation with me, he should decide that it be made public. In due time, this report will be submitted to the National Assembly for your consideration and appropriate action.

I bespeak the cooperation of the National Assembly in the settlement of the problems which I have laid before you and of those which it is my purpose to submit from time to time for your consideration during this special session.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on the Election Law, New Taxation Measures, Religious Instruction, and the Work for the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, July 25, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**THE ELECTION LAW, NEW TAXATION MEASURES,
RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, AND THE WORK OF
THE JOINT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
ON PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS**

[Delivered at the opening of the fifth special session of the National
Assembly, July 25, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have called this Honorable Body into special session so that you may enact a law fixing the date for the election of the members of the National Assembly, their term of office to commence on the 15th of November, 1938, the date when, under the Constitution, the terms of the present members shall expire. In this connection, I desire to invite your attention to the need of amending the Election Law, so as to prohibit and punish certain practices not covered by existing legislation. These practices are well known greatly to increase expenditures of the candidates and tend to vitiate the elections. Determined as we are to establish democracy firmly and permanently in our country, we must exercise the strictest vigilance to maintain the streams of free popular expression unpolled and undented. Above all we must guard the ballot box against the pernicious influence of money, and guarantee to every citizen that the lack of wealth shall not be a bar to his seeking an opportunity to serve this nation. I trust, therefore, that you will be able to accord to this matter early consideration.

It was my intention, and have so announced, to submit to you at this session certain measures recommended by the Department of Finance relative to taxation. This was deemed necessary, first, because there was urgent need of more funds to provide for the increase this year in the public school enrollment, which could not be met with estimated ordinary revenues; and second, in order that our system of taxation may be more in accord with the policy to which we are committed—a just distribution of the tax burden upon the principle of ability to pay. It now appears that we have collected during the first six months of this year several million pesos more than was estimated in the Budget. It is not necessary, therefore, to enact at this time any tax measure to raise funds to defray the urgent expenses of the Government for the Bureau of Education and other necessary activities. In view of this fact, I have decided not to ask you at this special session to consider tax legislation, leaving the matter for your next regular session.

The imposition of new taxes is always a serious matter, especially if it means a fundamental change in the policies underlying the public revenue system. The adoption of new theories of taxation already accepted in other progressive countries, as well as by competent students of public finance, is not the only question which should merit consideration. Equally important, and in our particular case, probably more so, is the rationalization of these theories in regard to the particular social and economic organization of our people, so that they may not in practice bring greater evils than those they are intended to remedy.

The power to tax can be and should be used both to produce revenues for the Government, and as an instrument to mold and direct the social and economic organization of the country. If, however, this latter function is to be accomplished successfully, with the least possible inconvenience or injury either to individuals or the body politic, this great power should be employed only after careful deliberation. If the proverb that “to go fast one must go slowly is ever true, it is so in the case of social or economic reforms. It is evidently the better part of wisdom for us to take more time—since we can do this without jeopardizing the solvency of the public treasury—in the study of the tax measures that are proposed for enactment, hearing those who wish to be heard, and thoroughly examining every aspect of the questions involved.

Everyone should realize that the people of the Philippines are, absolutely as well as relatively, among the least taxed people in the world. On the other hand, we cannot stagnate; we must make progress; we are far from performing adequately the most elementary duties of government. Hundreds of thousands of children are still being deprived of the opportunity to enter the primary schools, despite the injunction of the Constitution that no child of school age be deprived of this privilege. The health of our people is not being properly protected, and there are many other essential activities which the Government should undertake and which have not so far been done for lack of funds. We must, therefore, insure a larger income from the Government, within the limits, of course, of the economic capacity of the country to provide that income. This means that we must not only revise our system of taxation to conform with the principle of the ability to pay, but also with a view to increasing our revenues.

For the stability of business and in order that those who are engaged in productive enterprise may be in a position to plan their respective industries, bearing in mind their obligations to the Government, together with all other items and factors which determine their costs and risks, it is most desirable that our tax structure possess some degree of permanency. To avoid frequent changes in our tax laws so disturbing to business, we should endeavor to estimate the probable and inevitable increase in the expenditures of the Government during the next ten years, so that revenue laws may be passed adequately to meet such requirements. I, therefore, propose the appointment of a commission which will study our tax system, considering the growing cost of public education with the increase of our population, the greater expenditures in the maintenance of roads which are being built under the four-year program which you have approved in your last session, and other essential activities of the Government which, as the years go by, will necessarily demand a progressively larger outlay. Needless to say, increased revenues may come not only from present sources, or from tapping new ones, but also from the creation of taxable wealth which it is to be hoped will result from the stimulation of our economic development to be planned by the National Economic Council.

There is one other subject which I deem it my duty to lay before you at this time.

By a large majority of the members of this body, a bill on religious instruction in the public schools (Bill No. 3307) was passed in your last regular session. I vetoed this bill and my veto message which is now in your possession states the reasons for my action.

Inasmuch as the National Assembly had already adjourned *sine die* when I vetoed the religious instruction bill, this body did not have an opportunity to reconsider the measure under the provisions of the Constitution, which would have permitted it to repass the bill, the veto of the President notwithstanding.

It is not my desire, nor do I consider it conducive to the public interest, to deprive you of the opportunity to take up this matter again, if you regard it your duty to do so, despite my veto and my reasons therefor. You can only do this, in my opinion, if I include this subject among the measures which may be taken up at this special session. I am affording to you constitutional authority to take it up, if you so desire. I have considered it advisable to do this, because I regard the controversies that have arisen in relation to the bill on religious instruction of such seriousness and importance, that it would be well for the whole nation and all the parties involved that they be settled now and forever. These controversies are pregnant with the seeds of popular dissension and I trust that the National Assembly will cooperate with me in my earnest endeavor toward our country against the bitter strifes that have arisen in other nations due to similar or allied causes. Let us not by our refusal to face these dangers merely postpone the inevitable conflict which, notwithstanding the sound and patriotic purposes of those engaged therein, will inevitably degenerate into a religious struggle with all its accompanying evils.

The religious instruction bill, after a thorough deliberation, was passed by this body by a vote of two-thirds of the members voting. Such a large majority could not but have weight in my mind when I took action on the bill. If I had any doubt as to the interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution in this regard, or if the questions involved were merely of policy, I might have been inclined to resolve the doubt in favor of the views of such a large majority of your members. I wish to state to you, however, that after a careful study and consideration I saw that my duty was plain and clear, for the provisions of the Constitution are so explicit that they left me no choice except to disapprove the bill. It must be borne in mind, moreover, that in consonance with most constitutions recognizing religious freedom and the separation of Church and State, our Constitution expressly prohibits the use of any public property, directly or indirectly, in the interest of any religion. Taking into consideration all these provisions of the Constitution, the conclusion is inescapable that the precept relating to religious instruction does not provide a limitation to rights that otherwise exist under the Constitution, but is permissive in nature and establishes a privilege which otherwise would not exist. This fact, by every rule of statutory construction, compels the strictest interpretation of such provisions. This was my conviction when I vetoed the measure, and I have not changed my views on the matter. I am deeply convinced that the bill which you passed was unconstitutional. Any other bill which you may pass amending the present law on religious instruction in the public schools will likewise be unconstitutional. If the National Assembly should again pass the same or any other similar bill, I shall veto it and send it back to you at this session that you may act on my veto.

It may not be amiss to reiterate that I am one of those who believe that religious instruction is not only good but also necessary for children of school age. As I stated in my veto message, I consider religion as a great power for good. It is stabilizing in its influence. It is good for the individual and good for the body politic. I believe also that the primary duty to teach religion devolves on the parents, if and when those parents profess a religion. Of course, it is a part of the essential functions of a church to teach religion to its faithful. I am prepared to give every facility for the teaching of religion to the youth of our country in accordance with the laws of the land.

But I can go no further. I am persuaded after a careful study, not only by the express provisions of the Constitution regarding this subject, but also by the essential implications from the doctrine of separation of Church and State, that the Government of the Philippines cannot do more in reference to religious instruction in the public schools, than what is now authorized by law. In other words, in order that the Government may allow the teaching of religion during school hours in place of curricular activities, it will be necessary not only to amend existing legislation which has been incorporated by reference into our Constitution, but also to repeal the provision of the Constitution establishing the separation of Church and State.

This was also the view of Taft, who contended that to permit religious instruction in the public schools during the hours when the buildings were required for school purposes would be a violation of the accepted constitution inhibitions intended to safeguard religious liberty and the separation of Church and State. As is well known, it was Taft who, in the face of strong opposition, was responsible for the teaching of religion in the public schools being permitted at all.

Much as I believe that religious instruction is necessary for our youth, and, therefore, much as I sympathize with the idea that somehow the Government should promote the teaching of religion, I must emphatically state that if this can be done only by undermining or in any way violating the doctrine of the separation of Church and State, I am irrevocably opposed to it. This attitude is dictated by what I consider my duty under the Constitution and by my own personal convictions. After all the obligation to teach religion resides in the parents and the Church, and should they comply with this duty, the spiritual need of the people in this respect would be amply provided for. A government that authorizes optional religious instruction in the public schools, as it is done in the Philippines, with the limitations imposed by the Constitution, is already supplementing in no inconsequential way that duty of the parents and of the Church. With the opportunities we offer in the public schools at present, the Government cannot be blamed if religion is not more generally taught.

As you well know, during my last visit to the United States, President Roosevelt, in consultation with me, appointed the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, composed of Americans and Filipinos, to study and make recommendations as to the future trade relations between the United States and the Philippines, with a view to a gradual, rather than an abrupt, elimination of trade preferences between the two countries. This action was prompted by a considered view of the injurious consequences to American-Philippine commerce, and particularly to the

integrity of the Philippine economy, if the trade provisions of the Independence Act were to be left unchanged. It was the consensus of opinion not only of the officials of the Government of the United States in charge of Philippine affairs, but also of the officials of the Philippine Government, that there exist some inequalities in the effects of these provisions which should be removed, and that they should otherwise be modified so as to give to the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust its economy. This opinion was entertained generally by Americans and Filipinos who are cognizant, either from study or actual experience, of the inevitably harmful results to Philippine economic interests of the enforcement of the trade provisions of the Independence Act after 1941 and 1946.

On another occasion, I advised you of the creation of this committee and of the members that constituted it. It is my pleasure now to inform you that the committee has concluded its work after a long, laborious and conscientious study of all phases of the problem. The committee did part of its work in the United States and part in the Philippines. It held hearings in both countries, and after the hearings it met first in Manila and then in Washington, and spent many months before it could come to a unanimous agreement upon its recommendations. Perhaps the recommendations of the report may not meet with the approval of everyone, but I am voicing the sentiments of the Filipino members in the committee when I say that the American members went as far as they honestly felt that they could go in meeting our views, and I hope that the American members will also feel that this had been the attitude of their Filipino colleagues. There was one common purpose and objective shared by all the members of the committee, Americans and Filipinos, and that was to do the best that they thought they could do under the circumstances in the interest equally of America and the Philippines.

I feel certain that you and our people unite with me in expressing to the members of the committee, both Americans and Filipinos, our grateful appreciation of their valuable work done with such high purpose and devotion. The President of the United States needs no praise from us, but I must say that the whole Philippine nation will never forget the kindly interest and concern which President Roosevelt has shown for our future welfare and security. May I also reiterate, that it may be recorded in the annals of our country, that the President, despite the grave problems which from the start have besieged his administration, has shown that his heart has never failed to throb for the liberty and happiness of the Filipino people, and that his active mind has been always seeking the best course leading to the attainment of these noble aims, with the least possible suffering for our people.

I have in my possession an official copy of the report and the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs. I am constrained to withhold transmittal to you now of this report, because I have been asked by the President of the United States to keep it confidential until such time when, in consultation with me, he should decide that it be made public. In due time, this report will be submitted to the National Assembly for your consideration and appropriate action.

I bespeak the cooperation of the National Assembly in the settlement of the problems which I have laid before you and of those which it is my purpose to submit from time to time for your consideration during this special session.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on changing the Official Fiscal Year, July 27, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To to the First National Assembly
On changing the Official Fiscal Year**

[Released on July 27, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Under section 9 (1), Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, the President is required to submit within fifteen days of the opening of each regular session of the National Assembly a budget of receipts and expenditures. Since the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 244, which changed the opening date of each regular session of the National Assembly from October 16th to the fourth Monday of January of each year, the preparation of the annual budget has become difficult for the administration due to unavailability of appropriate data on actual collections and expenditures of the different branches of the Government on which to base the estimate of income and expenditures for an incoming fiscal year that commences a year thereafter.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment during your present special session of a law changing the official fiscal year from the period from January first to December thirty-first to the period from July first of each calendar year to June thirtieth of the calendar year immediately following, in order to enable the administration, in preparing each annual budget, to use as basis the actual collections and expenditures for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, and such annual budget shall be for a period that will commence only six months from the time it is prepared.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the immediate necessity of the enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on repealing the conditional feature of some items of appropriations contained in the General Appropriation Act for 1939, July 27, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On repealing the conditional feature of some items of appropriations contained in the General Appropriation Act for 1939**

[Released on July 27, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Section 6 of the General Appropriation Act for 1939 makes the availability of the following items of appropriations, which are provided in said Act, conditional upon the enactment of tax laws authorizing the collection of additional revenues sufficient in amount to cover them:

D-IV- 1	For pensions of veterans of the Philippine Revolution as may be authorized by law	P50,
G-IV-20	For the operation and maintenance of ten aërological stations	30,2
H-IV-16	Additional expenses for the operation and maintenance of ten radio stations to be devoted principally for broadcasting weather reports	70,9
H-IV-17	For the operation of twelve radio telephone stations to be established at different airports for the benefit of aviation	20,4
I-IV- 6	Additional appropriation for the establishment or opening of new primary schools or classes, in June, 1938, including the purchase of necessary textbooks	P1,0
I-IV- 7	For the continuation of the new elementary schools or classes established or opened in 1938	1,84
I-IV- 8	For the operation, maintenance, and equipment, including the purchase of necessary textbooks, of new public primary schools or classes to be established upon the opening of the school year 1939-1940	1,00
I-IV-13	For the conversion of existing agricultural schools to regional agricultural schools of the Central Luzon type and/or the establishment of new regional agricultural schools of said type	192,
I—IV—14	For the conversion of existing trade schools to regional trade schools of the type of the Philippine School of Arts and Trades and/or the establishment of new regional trade schools of said type	158,
I-IV-28	For additional appropriation for the operation of traveling X-Ray Units and the establishment of combined Pneumothorax Clinics and Tuberculosis Dispensaries	145,
I-IV-29	For the establishment and maintenance of public health laboratories for the study and investigation of communicable diseases	P71,
I-IV-30	For the establishment, operation, and maintenance of offices of epidemiologists to be assigned by the Director of Health in the	45,5

	provinces of the Philippines to make scientific epidemiological studies and investigations of the prevalence of communicable diseases	
I-IV-31	For the extension of the control and eradication of malaria	950,
I-IV-34	For expenses of the Nursery for Nonleprous Babies and Children below two years of age	18,7

This arrangement has to be made in order to keep the ordinary recurring expenses of the National Government within its estimated ordinary income and to avoid further depletion of the surplus.

The postponement of the consideration by the National Assembly of the tax measures creating additional sources of income for the Government to the next regular session of the same having been agreed upon, the urgent and vital needs of the Government for the extension of elementary education and the protection and improvement of the public health and for social amelioration will have to be met by other means. Fortunately, although the revenue collections during the first six months of the current year have fallen below those collected during the corresponding period of last year, they have exceeded the estimated collections for the same period, and, should the present trend continue, this year's excess of revenue collections over those originally estimated in the budget will not be less than P5,000,000.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment during your present special session of a law repealing the conditional feature of the items of appropriations listed above. Such repeal will in no way endanger the stability of the budget in view of the authority which the President of the Philippines may exercise any time to suspend or otherwise stop the expenditure of any of the items of appropriations provided in Commonwealth Act No. 300, or any portion thereof, under section 8 of the same Act.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the immediate necessity of the enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on reconsideration of bills approved by the National Assembly at its last regular and special sessions, which were vetoed by the President, August 1, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON

PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AT ITS LAST REGULAR AND SPECIAL
SESSIONS, WHICH WERE VETOED BY THE
PRESIDENT**

[August 1, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

After enacting the Election Bill and the necessary legislation recommended in my two messages both dated July 27, 1938 (re change of the fiscal year and the repeal of the conditional feature of certain items of the Appropriation Act), you may, if you so desire, proceed to reconsider all the bills approved by the National Assembly at its last regular and special sessions but which were vetoed by the Chief Executive because of certain defects thereof, provided that said defects are eliminated, and to act on such other measures as you may deem necessary in the public interest and welfare.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on reconsideration of bills approved by the
National Assembly at its last regular and special sessions which were vetoed by the President, August 1, 1938**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AT ITS LAST REGULAR AND SPECIAL
SESSIONS, WHICH WERE VETOED BY THE
PRESIDENT**

[August 1, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

After enacting the Election Bill and the necessary legislation recommended in my two messages both dated July 27, 1938 (re change of the fiscal year and the repeal of the conditional feature of certain items of the Appropriation Act), you may, if you so desire, proceed to reconsider all the bills approved by the National Assembly at its last regular and special sessions but which were vetoed by the Chief Executive because of certain defects thereof, provided that said defects are eliminated, and to act on such other measures as you may deem necessary in the public interest and welfare.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on authorizing the President to lease haciendas from their present owners for a period not exceeding 25 years with an option to purchase them at a stated price, August 10, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO LEASE HACIENDAS
FROM THEIR PRESENT OWNERS FOR A PERIOD
NOT EXCEEDING 25 YEARS WITH AN OPTION
TO PURCHASE THEM AT A STATED PRICE**

[August 10, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I wish again to bring to your attention the problem of the purchase of the large landed estates or “haciendas.” In my message to the National Assembly of June 16, 1936, I referred to the question of acquiring these estates at a fair and just price, so that they may be resold in small lots to those occupying them as tenants. The Coalition platform was committed to this policy. I stated then, however, that in view of our experience in relation to the friar lands, I was convinced that the purchase and resale of these haciendas would not solve the agrarian and social problems existing therein; that it would not prevent the concentration in the future of these lands in the hands of a few people; and that the benefits, if any, that might accrue to the tenants would not justify the large outlay of public funds required to cover the purchase price, which funds did not exist in the public treasury.

The portions of the haciendas which are urban in character offered a different problem. They did not require such a large outlay, and with the well-known attachment of the Filipino to his home, I was convinced that there was no immediate danger of the urban lots ultimately finding their way into the possession of a few men. I, therefore, requested authority to proceed to acquire these urban portions through expropriation proceedings. The National Assembly has authorized a total expenditure of P3,000,000 for this purpose. I have the pleasure to report that these proceedings are now before the courts and are being pressed to a termination as soon as possible. They cover lands within the Haciendas of Lian in Batangas, San Pedro de Tunasan in Laguna, and Dinalupihan in Bataan.

In view of the extraordinary funds covered into the Philippine Treasury from the coconut oil excise tax, I appointed a Committee to study further the advisability of purchasing the agricultural portions of these haciendas, for it has always been my desire to ameliorate the situation of the people occupying these lands. The Committee has been making a careful study of all the questions involved, and at your last regular session I transmitted to you a partial report of that Committee covering the proposed purchase of the Hacienda of Lian. Since then, the Committee has recommended an appropriation of P12,000,000 for the purchase of some of these haciendas. To acquire all of them would undoubtedly require a much larger sum.

From the letter of the Chairman of the Committee transmitting the recommendation for the additional appropriation alluded to, I quote the following:

“Your Committee considers that the objective of the Government in the acquisition of the big landed estates is not only to break them up into small parcels, but also to enable the occupants to acquire and hold lands for themselves and their children and thus become free and independent farmers. In the case of the big estates acquired by the Government under Act No. 1120, this objective of the Government was not fulfilled in many instances. It is true that the small landowners were created out of the previous tenants and ‘kasamas’, but a considerable number of these, left to themselves, transferred their holdings to others, bringing about the consolidation of their holdings in a few individuals who finally became their landlords. Much in the same way, parcels of the public domain granted to individual settlers found their way into the hands of a few. The situation has been due largely to the fact that the Government has limited itself to the distribution of the land and has not given to the occupants the necessary facilities in their struggle to become landowners. It is believed that to attain success, the Government should not stop at the sale of the lands but should continue to lend a helping hand so that the ‘kasamas,’ usually unlettered, who heretofore had to depend on their landlords for money advances, for advice and for guidance, may have an agency to take the place of the former landlords.”

I endorse the views of the Committee. I believe we will solve nothing by merely purchasing and reselling the lands. On the other hand, to adopt the recommendation of the Committee will involve the Government in a most difficult enterprise, requiring years of planning and execution, and an outlay which will amount to many times the P12,000,000 which is being asked. The Committee estimates that, this sum will be sufficient to acquire only four haciendas at their assessed value. We may have an idea of the large amount needed when we consider that up to now there have been received sixty petitions for the purchase of landed estates and homesites in different parts of the Philippines.

I am not prepared to embark the Government upon such a costly undertaking and with such uncertain results. Moreover, we cannot make these large expenditures without neglecting entirely the just claims of a vast number of our population for government assistance. There should be a relative balance in our appropriation of public funds in relation to the furtherance of our social objectives, so that the welfare of the nation at large may be promoted and the people may be benefited in proper proportion.

I cannot, on the other hand, resign to a policy of inaction and defeatism in the face of the problems created by these landed estates. Without the need of very large expenditures, I believe we can effect a gradual but more real and lasting improvement in the conditions obtaining among the tenants in these haciendas. I recommend that the Chief Executive be authorized to lease these lands from their present owners for a period not exceeding twenty-five years, with an option to purchase them during that period for a stated price. In this manner we need not now appropriate so many millions of the public money, and during the period of the lease we shall have an opportunity to study and, more effectively, I believe, improve actual conditions in those areas. I also request authority to establish the necessary agencies for the administration of these haciendas during the period of the lease, and an appropriation of P1,500,000 for these purposes.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on situation of the Sugar Industry, August 12, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On situation of the Sugar Industry**

[Released on August 12, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am submitting to you for your serious and earnest consideration one of the most vexing problems that now confront the country. I am referring to the situation of the sugar industry.

The sugar industry has become one of our basic industries. It represents a very important factor in the national economy. It has attained its present prosperous situation due to what might be termed "an artificial condition," namely, the privileged status which its free access to the American market has given it. The sugar industry is now threatened with disruption through several distinct causes. Under the provisions of the Independence Act, the free entry of Philippine sugar to the United States market will begin to suffer restrictions, starting from November 15, 1940, and ending in a total elimination of its preferences. When that time comes, the sugar industry in the Philippines can only survive if costs of production have been so reduced as to allow it to compete with sugar produced in those countries supplying the open markets of the world.

Because of this privileged status of the sugar industry, it may be properly stated that its prosperity has been due mainly, if not exclusively, to direct government protection. With the establishment of quota limitations on production, it has become a monopoly of those who were already in the industry. The sugar industry, therefore, more than any other industry in the Philippines, has definite social obligations, and the Government is duty bound to see to it that the benefits so conferred upon the industry be fairly distributed among those who make up the industry.

There are four elements that take part in the production of sugar: the sugar mills or centrals, the landowners, the sugar planters, and the laborers. No impartial observer can fail to admit that the sugar centrals have received generally the largest share in the benefits derived from the industry, compared to that received by either the sugar planter or the laborer. The landowner who leases out his land is, perhaps, the one who, relatively speaking, is in the most favored situation, for he takes no risks, exerts no effort, spends nothing to improve his land, and yet ordinarily he exacts very high rent.

The apparently unfair contract between the central and the planters may be explained by the fact that when the sugar industry was established in the Islands, capital invested in the sugar centrals was uncertain as to the prospects of the industry, especially because we were adopting a system which theretofore had proved to be a failure in other countries; namely, the system of producing cane on lands which were not owned or controlled by the factory. The sugar planters on the other hand, finding themselves in the alternative of either producing sugar under the old system or having the opportunity of producing it under modern methods, accepted the contracts that the sugar centrals offered them, without regard to the proportionate benefits they were receiving, knowing that by so doing they were materially improving their condition.

It may be assumed, therefore, that both parties to the contracts acted in good faith, without one's intention of taking advantage of the other. The fact, however, is that the fear or doubt of the sugar centrals has proved to be unfounded and they have made large profits. Some of these sugar centrals, many of them in fact, have already recovered their original investment. The sugar planters, on the other hand, have not made as much profit as they expected, not only because their estimates did not prove to be correct, but also because in the case of those sugar planters who do not own the land, they have been compelled to pay more and more rent for the land, as the landowners saw that they

were making profits on their plantations. The laborers, whether in the sugar central or in the farms, have not in any case received the wage that they should have received. Generally speaking, the laborers in the sugar centrals have received higher wages than those in the plantations, but even in the case of the laborers in the centrals it is a fact that their wages are too low and should be raised.

Two problems, therefore, confront the country: one is to find means for the preservation of the sugar industry, after all the privileges that it now enjoys have terminated; the other, is to find the means of distributing the profits of the industry more equitably, as between the sugar central and the landowner on the one hand, and the sugar planter and the laborers, on the other.

It is my belief that a measure can be enacted within the limitations of our Constitution whereby the sugar industry may have a fair opportunity to readjust itself to a competitive status through a reduction of production costs. I also believe that a means can be found whereby a more equitable distribution of the profits can be made. I, therefore, recommend that the National Assembly enact a law for the purpose, first, to eliminate from the sugar industry the lands that are not favorably suited to the production of sugar cane and the centrals that can not be operated economically; second, to compel sugar centrals and sugar planters to pay higher and more appropriate wages to their respective laborers; third, to afford in the form of benefit payments, adequate relief to planters who are not receiving the share that they should receive from their sugar cane; and fourth, to provide funds for the amelioration of social and labor conditions existing in the industry, and to carry out a sound program for its adjustment and stabilization.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of such a law.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Immediate Enactment of 27 Bills, August 15,
1938 MESSAGE**

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF 27 BILLS

[August 15, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the following bills:

1. Bill No. 3771.—An Act for making further and more effectual provision for the National Defense by establishing a system of military justice for persons subject to military law;

2. Bill No. 3776.—An Act to amend sections seventeen, nineteen, twenty-two, twenty-four, twenty-five, thirty-one, forty, fifty-two, seventy-six-A, seventy-eight, and ninety-five of Commonwealth Act Numbered One, known as the National Defense Act, as amended, and inserting four new sections in said Act to be known as sections twenty-five-A, twenty-five-B, ninety-A and ninety-one-A;

3. Bill No. 3786.—An Act transferring the National Library from the National Assembly to the Department of Public Instruction, and for other purposes;

4. Bill No. 3778.—An Act requiring all orders, decisions, and resolutions which need publication in the newspapers to be published in the Official Gazette, and appropriating funds to carry out the purposes thereof;

5. Bill No. 3965.—An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines to enter into negotiations with the owners of landed estates in the Philippines for the purpose of leasing such haciendas and to sublet the same to bona fide occupants or qualified persons, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes;

6. Bill No. 3953.—An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines, in aid of the establishment and operation of a petroleum and natural gas industry, to call for bids and award and execute contracts for the exploration, exploitation, and development of petroleum and natural gas deposits in private and public lands in the Philippines, subject in all cases to the express approval of the National Assembly;

7. Bill No. 3889.—An Act granting to Esperanza Lucerna a franchise to install, operate, and maintain an electric light, heat, and power plant in the municipality of Ilog, Occidental Negros, Philippines;

8. *Bill No. 3929.*—An Act to amend section one of Act Numbered Thirty-four hundred and thirty-six, entitled “An Act granting to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company a franchise to install, operate, and maintain a telephone system throughout the Philippine Islands;”

9. *Bill No. 3971.*—An Act to amend the last item of the sub-heading “V-Summary” of the appropriation for the National Library made in Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred and forty-five so as to make the phrase “Less—Forced Savings from Salaries and Wages” to read “Less—Forced Savings;”

10. *Bill No. 651.*—An Act to amend Articles Three hundred two and Three hundred ten of the Revised Penal Code in order to impose more severe penalties for the robbery and theft of large cattle;

11. *Bill No. 3920.*—An Act to further amend section two of Commonwealth Act Numbered Seven, entitled “An Act to create a National Loan and Investment Board, defining its powers, and for other purposes,” as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred nine;

12. *Bill No. 3917.*—An Act providing for the creation of a Tax Commission to study, revise, and make recommendations on the tax and tariff laws of the Commonwealth of the Philippines;

13. *Bill No. 3946.*—An Act creating the Cancer Institute; defining its powers, functions, and duties; and appropriating the necessary funds for its organization and operation;

14. *Bill No. 3970.*—An Act to amend section five of Commonwealth Act Numbered Three hundred and thirty-seven, entitled “An Act authorizing the Chartered City of Cebu to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds to construct necessary sewer facilities in said city, and authorizing also a National Government bond issue secured by said city bonds”;

15. *Bill No. 3974.*—An Act requiring the manager or person in charge of any sweepstakes, lottery or other similar scheme for the distribution of prizes, authorized to be conducted by the National Government or by any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, to deduct the income tax due from winners of the prizes and to pay the amount so deducted to the Collector of Internal Revenue;

16. *Bill No. 3783.*—An Act to provide for the payment in installment of the registration fees and assurance fund premiums due on original certificate of title issued under the Cadastral Act, and for other purposes;

17. *Bill No. 3779.*—An Act to amend section sixteen hundred and seventy-four and twenty-four hundred and sixty-five of the Revised Administrative Code. (Re assistant provincial fiscals and fiscals of the City of Manila);

19. *Bill No. 3844.*—An Act to amend section five hundred and sixty-nine of the Revised Administrative Code. (Re conveyance of Government property to a province, city, or municipality);

20. *Bill No. 3959.*—An Act to designate the provincial fiscals of provinces whose capitals have been converted into cities, city attorneys, ex-officio thereof, with additional compensation, and to provide for the appointment of assistant city attorneys thereat;

21. *Bill No. 3738.*—An Act to further amend section twenty-seven hundred and fifty-one of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Revised Administrative Code, as amended by Act Numbered Thirty-three hundred and fourteen, and for other purposes. (Re unlawful occupation of public forests);

22. *Bill No. 3742.*—An Act to compel land transportation enterprises with certificates of public convenience to carry the mail, free of charge;

23. *Bill No. 2791*.—An Act empowering the Secretary of Public Works and Communications to prohibit the construction of obstructions hazardous to air navigation, the construction of private landing fields abutting either national or military airports and landing fields, and prescribing penalties for violations of same;

24. *Bill No. 3961*.—An Act amending Article VIII, Chapter 52, of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, otherwise known as the Revised Administrative Code, regarding the Philippine Postal Savings Bank;

25. *Bill No. 3975*.—An Act providing for the support of primary and intermediate education and for other purposes;

26. *Bill No. 3850*.—An Act to further amend section one of Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred and eleven, as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered Three hundred and seventeen. (Re minimum wages of laborers employed in public works);

27. *Bill No. 3944*.—An Act to provide for the reporting of labor information to the Secretary of Labor, to prescribe penalties for violation hereof, and for other purposes.

28. *Bill No. 3978*.—An Act providing for the levying by the Municipal Board of the City of Manila, of special assessments to cover the cost of the construction, improvement or repair of national roads within the City of Manila.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on negotiations on the pineapple industry and the operations of the Philippine Packing Corporation, August 15, 1938

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the First National Assembly
On negotiations on the pineapple industry and the operations of the Philippine Packing Corporation**

[Released on August 15, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit hereunder, for your information, the facts surrounding negotiations that have been conducted in regard to the pineapple industry, with particular reference to the operations of the Philippine Packing Corporation in northern Mindanao.

In order to clarify the several steps taken in these negotiations, a short history of the pineapple industry and of the operations of the Philippine Packing Corporation in the Philippines is necessary.

In the year 1921, a group of trained experts in the production and packing of pineapples came to the Philippines and, up to 1926, made extensive studies of agricultural conditions throughout the country to determine the appropriate site for pineapple culture, and exerted efforts to acquire land of sufficient size to warrant developing a profitable industry. After these years of preliminary study, the Philippine Packing Corporation was organized in 1926. With such organization, additional technical staff was brought from the United States and definite field plantings were established in many places in the Islands, especially around Sarangani Bay and in Bukidnon. After two years of field plantings, or in 1928, Bukidnon was finally selected as the best place in which to grow pineapples and the first planting on a commercial scale was made therein.

The site selected by the officials of the Philippine Packing Corporation for pineapple culture were already covered by leases existing in 1928, as follows:

Lease No.	Area in hectares	Former Lessees	Date of expiration of lease	Assi
1. 1. 702 (E-G4)	1,024	Bukidnon Cattle and Coffee Co., Inc.	June 12, 1942	Anit
2. 703 (E-99)	471. 112	R. E. Gearhart	Oct 24, 1942	L.E.
3. 727 (E-76)	828.4367	Manuel Escobar	Sept. 4, 1942	A. V
4. 728 (E 77)	1,015.0162	J. J. Ossorio	Sept. 4, 1942	H. A
5. 729 (E 78)	985 3480	M. J. Ossorio	Sept. 4, 1942	J. M

All the above-mentioned leases were granted by the Government to their former lessees in the year 1917 for a term of 25 years expiring in 1942. As the land covered by them was found to be the most suitable in regard to location and quality, the officials of the Philippine Packing Corporation negotiated, through and with the approval of the then Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the assignment of the leases to some persons connected with the Philippine Packing Corporation. As may be seen from the above tabulation, the assignments of the leases to their present holders were finally effected in the year 1929, although the first commercial plantings of pineapples were made in 1928 in order that the first harvest may be ready for packing in 1930.

In the year 1930 the Packing Corporation erected a complete canning plant costing P1,500,000 in Bugo, Oriental Misamis. Almost immediately after erection 'of this plant, serious setbacks were suffered by the Packing Corporation due to the world economic depression which reduced the demand for canned pineapples considerably,

so the Corporation attempted to pack tuna fish commercially in which enterprise they suffered great losses. When economic conditions improved, the Corporation went back to the cultivation and packing of pineapples. At present the Corporation is employing over 600 men on the plantations and about 500 men and women in the factory. It is intending to increase its output soon and will then be able to accommodate almost double its present personnel. The minimum wage on the plantations is P1 per day with free quarters and free medical and dental care for the laborers and their families. The men in the factory are paid a minimum rate of P1.04 per day, and the women P0.80, for eight hours work. The Corporation agrees to follow the minimum wage limits set by law or by the Administration. The entire organization is practically 100 per cent Filipino with the exception of seven employees from the United States used as technical advisers. The entire labor pay roll averaged P200,000 a year during the last five years and will be considerably increased as soon as the contemplated expansion is effected. The Corporation uses Philippine refined sugar valued at over P100,000 a year and pays a considerable amount of taxes to the local and National Governments. It has also spent about P250,000 on experimental work to develop practical control of pineapple pests as well as on the growing and canning problems which had to be solved before commercial production was possible, and established an experimental station in which they coöperate with the National Government in endeavoring to grow other crops suitable to the Bukidnon district. Roads and bridges and a telephone communication system within the areas covered by the leases and connecting such areas to the cannery in Bugo, Oriental Misamis, have been built entirely at the expense of the Corporation.

I also gathered from several acts of the Government that the Philippine Packing Corporation or the men behind it were encouraged to establish the cannery above mentioned in Mindanao and that the Corporation established this cannery in the belief that they would be permitted to occupy such lands as may be necessary to produce pineapples to feed the factory during such period as may be necessary for them to recoup their investments and make a reasonable profit. In the year 1929, the Governor General by Proclamation No. 230, created the Libona Pineapple Reservation, containing an area of approximately 14,000 hectares. In the same year, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources submitted to the Legislature a bill containing the so-called Alunan plan providing for the establishment of industries or agricultural enterprises to be administered in accordance with the sugar central system. The object of the Alunan plan was precisely to organize the pineapple industry in accordance with the sugar central system, and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources had already prepared regulations governing the institution of the central system in the pineapple industry.

As can be seen hereinabove, the existing leases covering the lands planted to pineapple to feed the cannery of the Philippine Packing Corporation will expire in the year 1942. As it takes two years for pineapples to bear fruit, the Philippine Packing Corporation desires to have the existing leases extended or that some sort of an arrangement be agreed upon to assure an adequate supply of pine apples to their cannery. The Corporation has to plan the production of pineapples so that there would be a sufficient harvest each year for the cannery. Their present arrangement has always been to divide the entire area devoted to planting into three portions—one portion planted during a year, and another portion planted another year and the third portion planted the third year, so that there would be a constant supply of pineapples produced in sufficient quantity to feed the cannery.

I believe it much better for the Government to enter into some suitable arrangement under which some Government agency would take over the control of such lands as may be needed for the development of the pineapple industry and for such agency to enter into an equitable contract with the Philippine Packing Corporation for the absorption by the latter of all the pineapples that may be produced. In my belief, some such arrangement is justified in view of the implied commitments of the Government to the Packing Corporation and especially because of the fact that a stoppage of operations of the Philippine Packing Corporation would deprive the Government of a considerable amount now paid as taxes and also of the benefits that may be derived from the experimental station operated and the researches conducted by the Corporation at its expense. Such stoppage of operations will also deprive the country of a good consumer of Philippine sugar and other products and will throw out of work nearly 2,000 laborers now employed on the plantations and in the factory to whom the Corporation pays yearly wages amounting to at least P200,000. The training of Filipinos in the cultivation and packing of pineapples will also stop.

So I considered the idea of letting the National Development Company have under lease from the National Government all the lands that may be necessary for the development of the pineapple industry and for the National Development Company to enter into a suitable agreement with the Philippine Packing Corporation in regard to this

industry. The National Development Company under its charter has been permitted by your honorable body to do these things.

The National Development Company has submitted to me for my approval a plan of development which in my opinion will not only be beneficial to the Government and to the Company but also to the people of our country. The principal features of the agreement are as follows:

1. That the National Development Company lease from the National Government such areas of suitable land as may be needed for the development of this industry, including the land now held under lease by the officials and members of the Philippine Packing Corporation, as above enumerated, because the present lessees have agreed to return to the Government such leases and waive their rights thereunder although the leases do not expire up to 1942; and that the National Development Company shall pay the ordinary rentals on all land leased for this purpose.

2. That the National Development Company and the Philippine Packing Corporation will enter into a contract of operation of the pineapple plantations, and the principal features of such agreement, as tentatively arrived at, are as follows:

a. That the operation of the lands devoted to pineapple culture should be under a working agreement between the National Development Company and the Philippine Packing Corporation.

b. That the technical supervision with regards to the planting, etc., is to be left in the hands of the Philippine Packing Corporation which, through its experimental station and researches, has developed special technique in the production of pineapples, control of pests, etc.

c. That Filipino laborers and technicians will be employed with the exception of those whose places cannot be occupied by Filipinos because of requirements for highly specialized training and experience.

d. That the Philippine Packing Corporation shall pay to the National Development Company a rental for the use of land in the amount of P1 per hectare yearly.

e. That the capital for the operation of the plantations shall be advanced by the Philippine Packing Corporation and that the operating account shall be liquidated yearly after the harvest and delivery of pineapples to the Philippine Packing Corporation.

f. That the Philippine Packing Corporation shall pay the partnership for the pineapples delivered to said corporation at the rate of P10 per ton.

g. That every year, a liquidation of the operation shall be made to determine the profit or loss, as follows: Take the gross income on the basis of P10 per ton of pineapples produced, and deduct from the amount all the expenses of operating the plantations only. The profit shall be divided share-and-share alike by the Philippine Packing Corporation and the National Development Company. If the liquidation shows a loss, the loss shall be suffered only by the Philippine Packing Corporation. In this liquidation, the amount of P1 rental to be paid by the Philippine Packing Corporation to the National Development Company for each hectare of land devoted to pineapple culture shall not be taken into consideration as expense of operation.

h. That the experiments on the diversification of crops in the Bukidnon district shall continue and that as soon as the experiments show commercial possibilities for the production of other crops, such production shall be undertaken by the Philippine Packing Corporation and the proceeds from the sales of such crops shall be considered as income to the partnership and should be included in the yearly liquidation of the operation of the plantation.

i. That the National Development Company shall have authority to revise all the books and records connected with the operation of these plantations.

I believe that these conditions are fair because without the actual expenditure of public funds they will tend to develop an important industry, and I am inclined to approve them and to direct the National Development Company to proceed with the execution of the operating agreement.

This transaction can and will be entered into by administrative action under the existing laws. I deem it my duty, however, to apprise you officially of the contemplated action because, in my opinion, the nature of the transaction is such that, in this as well as in other similar cases when the National Development Company should undertake enterprises of this sort, the National Assembly should be fully informed of what is being done by this agency of the Government.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Approval of Bill No. 3616, September 12, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 3616—PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT
OF INDEMNITIES AND PENSIONS IN CASE OF ACCIDENT
DURING THE TRAINING OF TRAINEES AND
RESERVISTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY**

[Released to the Press, September 12, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have today approved Bill No. 3616, entitled “An Act providing for the payment of indemnities and pensions in cases of accident during the training of trainees or reservists of the Philippine Army,” which has now become Commonwealth Act No. 400, as I believe that its aims and purposes are in line with the general policy of social security. The trainees or reservists, upon being drafted into the service, are taken away from their usual mode of occupation, and as an act of justice to them and to their families that are left behind, the Government should give them the assurance that while in training, they will be indemnified or compensated for any accident that may happen to them.

It has been pointed out to me that the first section of this bill is practically covered by Section 13 of Bill No. 3776 which has already been approved by me and is now known as Commonwealth Act No. 385. The provisions of said Act are general in their application, whereas the bill just signed by me would only apply to trainees or reservists who die or are disabled in case of accident. I shall, however, give instructions to the Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army so that only trainees or reservists or the forced heirs thereof who may take advantage of the provisions of one of these Acts shall not be allowed to enjoy the privileges accorded by the other Act.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Message of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on Veto of Bill No. 3907, September 13, 1938

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 3907—FURTHER AMENDING
ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

[September 13, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 3907, entitled “An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred forty, as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered Three hundred twenty-nine,” with the exception of the following items:

Ilocos	Sur—Item	No.	83
Mountain Province—Item No. 1			

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 405.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The	National	Assembly
Manila		

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3887, September 13, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**VETO OF BILL No. 3887—
FURTHER AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY
OF DAVAO**

[September 13, 1938]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 3887, entitled “An Act amending Commonwealth Act Numbered Fifty-one, as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred nine, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Davao.”

In section 12 of the bill, which amends section 34 of the Davao City Charter, it appears that the City Auditor is one of the officials to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. In my message to you dated June 18, 1938, regarding the Bacolod City Charter, I pointed out to you the inadvisability of having the City Auditor included among the appointees of the President. Under section 36 of the Davao City Charter, it is the Auditor General who receives and audits all accounts of the city, so that the appointment of another official to act as City Auditor might be considered as an interference with the constitutional duties of the Auditor General to audit, through his own representatives, the accounts of the City of Davao. Reiterating any previous stand on the matter, I cannot give my approval to the idea of providing a position of City Auditor for the City of Davao, as the Auditor General should be allowed to choose his own representative to enable him to perform the duties required of him by the laws and the Constitution.

I notice that in the same section 34 of the Davao City Charter sought to be amended, the Mayor is still empowered to suspend and remove any appointive city officer or employee not appointed by the President. In view of the approval of Commonwealth Act No. 177 which places in the hands of the Commissioner of Civil Service the power to impose administrative discipline on subordinate officers and employees of the Government, it is believed that the provision granting the Mayor such power of suspension and removal should no longer be allowed to stay in our statute books.

Under the provisions of section 2 of the bill, the Mayor is granted the power to approve the conveyances and encumbrances of real estate made by illiterate non-Christian residents of the City of Davao whenever the real estate is located within the boundaries of the city. Under the provisions of section 120 of Commonwealth Act No. 141, commonly known as the Public Land Act, conveyances and encumbrances made by illiterate non-Christians are not valid unless duly approved by the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu. The position of Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu has been created with a view primarily to coordinating the different activities relating to the administration of the affairs of the inhabitants of the non-Christian provinces in Mindanao and Sulu. For the sake, therefore, of harmony and efficiency in the efforts of the Government to promote the welfare of the non-Christian inhabitants of Mindanao and Sulu, I am not agreeable to the proposed provision which would grant the Mayor of the

City of Davao the power to approve conveyances and encumbrances of real estate made by illiterate non-Christians in the said city, without the intervention of the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu.

In view of the foregoing considerations and of the fact that the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Finance have pointed out to me certain other objectionable features of the proposed measure. I am constrained to veto the bill under consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Mayorship of the City of Cebu, September 14, 1938

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
MAYORSHIP OF THE CITY OF CEBU

[September 14, 1938]

My dear Assemblyman Rama:

Due to repeated requests of the present mayor of Cebu to be returned to the classified service, I am constrained to grant his petition. Mr. Alfredo V. Jacinto has been an efficient and loyal public servant in all the positions in the classified service, which he has occupied for many years, and my hopes, in appointing him mayor of Cebu, have been more than justified. Nevertheless, I am aware of the fact that his indefinite continuance in the mayorship, besides exposing him to the uncertainties of politics, also removes him from the branch of service in which Government officials are assured of permanence of position while they render satisfactory service.

This makes it necessary for me to appoint a new mayor for Cebu, and I have arrived at the conclusion that none better than you can be called upon to occupy the position. You are the author of the law which has converted the municipal government of Cebu into a city government. This law, inspired by the highest sense of patriotism and responsibility, should be justified in the eyes of the people. From all viewpoints, it is your duty to prove in practice that the conversion of an elective municipal president into an appointive mayor is justified. In conceiving the idea of making the post of mayor appointive, you acted under the belief that such a mayor is in a better position to serve the collective interests, as he is not bound by partisan exigencies, than an elective mayor. I am prepared to give you an opportunity to make good in practice the doctrine involved in the legislation you have sponsored. And so I offer you the mayorship of Cebu after the expiration of your term as assemblyman, as I cannot appoint you before this time due to a specific prohibition in the Constitution.

I request you to excuse yourself from your constituents and not to present your candidacy for reelection. I know that because of your services to the country from the halls of the Assembly, you are entitled to a reelection, and that the electorate of Cebu will reelect you in any district of the province where you may launch your candidacy. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the circumstances of the case, I am convinced that it is your duty to accept the post I now offer you, and I expect that you will not hesitate in giving me your affirmative answer.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon.
Assemblyman
Cebu, Cebu

Vicente
for

Rama
Cebu

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Amelioration of the lot of the Workingmen, September 26, 1938

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

AMELIORATION OF THE LOT OF THE WORKINGMEN

[Read at the celebration of the Collective Labor Movement, in
Angeles, Pampanga, September 26, 1938]

My Fellow Countrymen:

Mr. Pedro Abad Santos, of San Fernando, has requested me to address you on the occasion of your celebration of the Collective Labor Movement. Owing to previous engagements, I am unable to be with you in person, but I take pleasure in sending you a message of welcome and encouragement.

Every fair-minded man will have to admit that the workingman in the Philippines is not receiving his due. It has been my most earnest endeavor to ameliorate his lot and to secure for him just and equitable treatment. I want you to realize, however, that the labor problem is a very complicated one, especially with us, for it is inter woven with many phases of our daily life and century-old traditions. This is the reason why the Government has been proceeding slowly in its solution, measuring carefully every step that it takes. We have to change an archaic system which we have inherited from our ancestors and which has grown out of social conditions which cannot now be tolerated. But it is not merely a matter of enacting progressive laws which have proven successful in other countries; our task—and it is a difficult task—requires that we adapt them intelligently and constructively to our social and economic structure, lest we so disorganize our industries as to bring about a total economic collapse which, in the end, will do more harm to the laboring class itself than to other elements of our community.

There is not a single problem that is nearer my heart than this one, and if nothing else could be accomplished by my administration but to raise the wages of the laborers and improve their living and working conditions, I would feel that the country has not placed governmental powers in my hands in vain.

I need, however, the sympathetic cooperation of all the elements of our population, particularly of labor itself, in order that I may make substantial progress in this undertaking. It is more important that every ground that we win be made secure, than to advance quickly only to lose the following day what we have won the day before. I call upon you then to have patience and to give me your confidence, avoiding in the meantime the commission of acts on your part that might place obstacles in the way of the Government in bringing about these needed reforms. Above all else, you must show respect for the law and maintain peace. You can only be strong in your demand for recognition of your rights if at the same time you show willingness to recognize the rights of others.

I thoroughly sympathize with the movement to give the laboring class of the Philippines opportunities for collective expression and organization so that it may be able effectively to present its petitions and make valuable suggestions to the Government. But you must, at all times, be careful not to be led astray by irresponsible or selfish leaders who are interested more in their own egotistical aims than in your welfare. Please bear in mind that social justice does not mean justice to some and injustice to others. It means precisely justice to all the elements that constitute the community. I am emphasizing justice for the poor and for the workingmen now because it is the poor and the workingman who, at this juncture really need special care and protection on the part of the Government and its officials.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Manuel L. Quezon, Fifth State of the Nation Address, January 24, 1939

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On the the State of the Nation and Important Economic Problems**

[Delivered at the Opening of the First Session in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, Manila on January 24, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I take pleasure in congratulating you upon your election to this Second National Assembly, and to you, Mr. Speaker, I wish publicly to express my deep feeling of satisfaction that your distinguished colleagues have elevated you to this position of great responsibility and honor.

As we enter upon the second and last period of my administration, we should once more make public avowal of our objectives and of our firm determination to achieve them.

The Philippines is our country, and we shall make it the home of a free people—not alone politically, but economically as well. And this economic freedom must not be limited to the concept of national self-sufficiency, but must extend to every hamlet and hearth in this land. For of what practical value can the “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” be to a person, if he does not actually enjoy it and his only freedom consists in the freedom to starve or die?

This then is our ultimate goal: That the political rights vouchsafed to all our people by the Constitution be made real and effective by affording to every person willing to work the opportunity to earn a decent livelihood.

The First National Assembly laid the foundations for the attainment of this goal. It made an enviable record worthy of emulation. Only a visionary could claim that this task can reach fruition during the life of one administration or of even a generation. We have to rebuild our national structure on the solid and permanent foundation of social justice. Laws alone will not do it. We have to fight against prejudices, wrong notions, and outworn customs and traditions. We have to preach the fundamental principles of Christianity, and make them the underlying philosophy of our political and social institutions.

The great work initiated by the First National Assembly with such signal success we have to continue and carry forward. This is the mandate we have received from our people and which we dare not disobey.

No party has ever received such a vote of confidence as the Nationalist Party did at the last general election. Not a single candidate from the minority parties has been elected to this body. The faith and trust which our people have placed in our party in this extraordinary manner demands, in turn, from each of us extreme fidelity and devotion to duty. Not only must we steadfastly forge ahead with our determination to elevate to the topmost the moral, cultural, political, economic, and social conditions of our people, that they may be free from every sort of bondage, but our official acts and deeds should be such as to convince our people of the earnestness and honesty of our aims.

As the head of the State and the leader of our party, I venture to express the hope that the National Assembly will resist every temptation to divide itself into groups or blocs that may tend to weaken our unity of purpose and action. One of the dangers of such division lies in the possibility that the general interests of the nation may be overlooked, at least temporarily, and sacrificed for the benefit of the particular interests represented in the group or bloc. Obviously, one of the reasons why our people did not elect to the Assembly members representing the opposition is because they realize the importance of avoiding waste of time in political bickering in the proceedings of this body

in these anxious days when every single energy we can command should be devoted to the difficult task of preparing our nation for an independent existence in an international situation so fraught with danger. Moreover, organized groups or blocs within a party are inconsistent with party responsibility and majority rule.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, with your permission, I shall now proceed to give you a report on the state of the nation and to submit my recommendations regarding measures of first importance which I consider deserving of your prompt attention. From time to time, I shall take the liberty of sending to this body other messages concerning matters which, in my opinion, should be acted upon at this session.

During the past year the country enjoyed peace and order. There have been conflicts between capital and labor, but without serious consequences. Both the Department of Labor and the Court of Industrial Relations are entitled to commendation for the happy solution of such conflicts. However, we would be closing our eyes to the realities of the situation were we to believe that labor in our country is satisfied with its lot. There is growing unrest and discontent, specially among the farm laborers, not due entirely to the activities of professional agitators and irresponsible so-called labor leaders. Our laborers cannot be easily led astray by agitators when they have no real grievances. The Government is deeply concerned with the well-being of our masses, and it will not cease in its efforts to better their condition until ample justice is secured to them.

New public schools and classes have been opened and the enrollment in the public schools last year was increased by over 243,000. Approximately 18,500 kilometers of roads were in existence at the end of the year, and new wharves and other port facilities have been constructed. Public hospitals have been increased or enlarged, and clinics and dispensaries have been established in many localities. We are making progress in providing the remotest sections of the country with the services of doctors, dentists and nurses, and it is my earnest hope that during the next three years every town will be provided with these services. Sanitary conditions have been improved. We have not had any serious outbreak of epidemics and every threat or danger was effectively checked. An important housing project has been started in the vicinity of Manila to permit wage-earners and low-salaried employees to acquire or build their own homes. Should this project be successful, as I hope it will be, similar projects will be initiated in other communities.

Generally speaking, our national defense program has been carried out as planned, both as to cost and the number of men trained. Two full classes of trainees have now been processed through the instructional cadres and their organization into effective military unit's proceeds apace. Acquisition of arms, equipment and supplies is in approximate step with the production of tactical units. The Air Corps is steadily evolving into an effective fighting unit, both as to personnel and to equipment.

Deserving of special mention is the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio and its progress toward the establishment of a training course calculated to produce a highly trained, loyal and efficient professional leadership for our Army.

One accomplishment of the year toward which effort had been long directed was the separation of the Constabulary from the Army. From the beginning it was realized that law enforcement is not properly a military responsibility. Yet the necessity for using the Constabulary, as it existed in 1935, as the nucleus out of which to establish the Army's foundation, and the paucity of trained men for key positions had been the causes of the temporary consolidation heretofore existing. In the hope of avoiding wholesale transfers from the Army for police work, the establishment of a State Police from civilian sources was attempted in 1936. When the lack of trained personnel demonstrated that this method could succeed only if large numbers of officers and enlisted men were made available, it was decided, to avoid administrative complications, to separate from the Army the necessary individuals and organize them into a Constabulary. This has been done, and there is every reason to believe that the reconstituted organization will quickly earn a popular respect and prestige equal, and even superior, to the reputation in this regard enjoyed by the organization that existed prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth.

As a final word respecting the Army, I want to urge you, once again, to give to all matters concerning our future security the earnest consideration their fundamental importance deserves. If eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, let us then be ceaselessly vigilant. Our defensive system requires no unusual sacrifice by any individual, but its

success depends primarily and almost exclusively upon a unification of the efforts of all toward this common and vital purpose. To attain such unification in a democracy, the military plan must be supported by popular intelligence, confidence, and enthusiasm. It is a special function of Government to see that this confidence is fairly earned and assiduously sustained. To this end let us see to it that every law we pass and every military measure we adopt shall reflect an unselfish and national purpose, that it shall impose injustice on none, and that it shall promote the security and defend the peace, the possessions and the liberty of all.

The business enterprises of the Government, especially the Philippine National Bank and the Cebu Portland Cement Company, were operated at a profit during the past year. The Manila Railroad Company has at long last completed its southern line. The gap which existed for many years between Tayabas and Camarines Sur was connected at a cost of about P2,000,000. This was one of my dreams that have come true. The significance of this achievement will be readily seen when we consider the fact that a daily, comfortable, fast and inexpensive communication service has been established between Manila and the Bicol provinces. At the same time the completion of this southern line means increased earnings for the railroad. The National Rice and Corn Corporation stabilized palay and rice prices at levels which, under the circumstances, properly safeguarded the interests of consumers and producers alike. The National Development Company is completing the construction of certain factories and studying the organization of others, in line with our policy to promote industrial development and provide more opportunities for the employment of labor. It is our policy with regard to many of these new industries merely to do pioneering work and ultimately to transfer them to private ownership and management.

Our foreign trade during 1938 suffered a slight reduction, mainly on account of low prices for our export products. It is to be noted, moreover, that our imports increased materially, while our exports decreased in value resulting in larger imports than exports decreased in value, resulting in larger imports than exports. This is an unhealthy condition for a country like the Philippines and every step should be taken to guard against the persistence of this adverse balance of trade. This situation may be due in part to increased purchasing power as a result of the expenditure by the Philippine Government of proceeds of the excise taxes on Philippine products collected in the United States. At the beginning, these remittances were made through the Dollar Exchange Standard Fund which resulted in an increase of circulation. In order to avoid this undesirable effect, the necessary measures have been adopted to effect the transfer of these funds through normal bank exchange transactions, without the necessity of releasing new currency by the National Treasury.

Tax receipts exceeded budget estimates during the last year. The income from taxation, however, for the year 1938 was P8,076,362.49 below the collections for the year 1937, exclusive of the proceeds of the excise taxes from the United States. This reduction in revenue may be attributed to three causes: (1) the low prices for our agricultural products both for domestic consumption and for export, (2) the stock market slump during the year 1938, and (3) the fact that in 1937 large amounts were collected for taxes due in preceding years. Despite the reduction in the public revenues the fiscal position of the Government remains sound and strong. As the budget which I shall present to the National Assembly will reveal, the expenditures of the Government during the year 1938 were well within the income for that year, with an excess in collections accruing to the general fund over the ordinary expenditures amounting to P12,410,420.21 at the close of the year.

The low prices for our export crops during the past year were a serious blow to a large portion of our population. This emphasizes the necessity that we should endeavor to establish our economy in an ever-growing proportion on the basis of our home market, because export crops must face conditions which are beyond the control of our Government.

As I have already reported to the last National Assembly, the President of the United States, in consultation with me, appointed the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs to study and make recommendations concerning future trade relations between the United States and the Philippines. The Committee has submitted its report and recommendations to the President of the United States and to the President of the Philippines. Copies of this report were furnished to the members of this body. The report will be officially transmitted to the Assembly tomorrow. I commend it to your careful and earnest consideration. President Roosevelt and I have both approved the report and recommendations of the said Committee and it is my understanding that the President will urge the Congress to enact appropriate legislation to carry into effect those recommendations. One of these recommendations is to do away with the restrictions on the expenditure of the proceeds of the excise tax on coconut oil, and another is to bind

copra and abaca free of United States duty during the Commonwealth period. While it is not necessary for the National Assembly to pass any legislation effectuating such recommendations until the Congress of the United States has acted thereon, I earnestly recommend that you approve a resolution endorsing the recommendations of the report, so that the Congress of the United States may be informed that, if it should take favorable action on said recommendations, the National Assembly would do likewise. It is my hope that the Congress of the United States will approve legislation putting into effect the recommendations of the report at an early date, in order to place American-Philippine trade relations on a more fair and equitable basis, and to permit the Philippines properly and intelligently to plan its economic adjustment in preparation for independence.

In connection with this matter, I have sent as my special representative to Washington the Honorable Sergio Osmeña, Vice-President of the Philippines, to conduct, with the cooperation of the Resident Commissioner, the necessary negotiations with the Government of the United States. With the authority, they have enlisted the assistance of the Honorable Antonio de las Alas, formerly Secretary of Finance. I am in constant touch with the Vice-President who is keeping me advised of the progress of their work. So difficult and delicate a task could not have been entrusted to better hands.

Yielding to the wishes of the members of the last National Assembly and of the business community, I agreed to defer action upon my proposals for a tax revision and appointed a Tax Commission to study the matter. The Tax Commission has effected a revision of our internal taxation, taking into consideration the fiscal adequacy of our system of public revenue, a more fair and just allocation of the tax burden, and the need of insuring a more equitable and sound redistribution of wealth. I also instructed the Commission to revise the tax system of our local governments with a view to supplying them with definite sources of revenue and a sufficient income to meet their growing needs. The report of the Tax Commission will be transmitted to you at an early date and I trust that it will receive your favorable attention.

I also desire to submit to your consideration the enactment of necessary legislation for the settlement of sparsely populated regions of the Philippines, specially in Mindanao. This is important not only for obvious political reasons and as a means to promote economic development, but also to relieve the acute congestion of population existing in certain agrarian areas. The National Economic Council has recommended a carefully prepared plan to carry out this objective. The plan contemplates a ten-year program aiming at the settlement in these vacant areas of about 500,000 people on selected lands adapted to subsistence farming and the production of certain money crops. This project will require an estimated total outlay of P20,000,000 which may be appropriated from the proceeds of the excise taxes. The report and recommendations of the National Economic Council on this matter will be transmitted to the National Assembly within a few days.

Another problem which demands immediate attention concerns banking and credit, the cost of credit, and credit facilities for commerce, agriculture, and industry. The only institution in the Philippines that grants agricultural credit is the Philippine National Bank, but the limit fixed by law on the amount of the capital and resources of the Bank which may be invested in such credits has already been reached and the Bank is unable to give any more agricultural loans. Credit for capital investment is not available. There is practically no market for industrial bonds. Prevailing rates of interest charged by banks and private money lenders are still high, which fact is a drag upon economic enterprise and business prosperity. The National Economic Council is recommending a reform of our banking structure in order to remedy these evils. The Council proposes the creation of an investment bank for agriculture and industry, to which shall be transferred all the activities of the Philippine National Bank except those exclusively pertaining to commercial banking. The Council also recommends the establishment of a reserve and rediscount institution which will operate precisely in the same manner as the Federal Reserve System in the United States. This will provide a reasonable degree of elasticity and control over the money market and should immediately result in releasing for investment many millions of idle cash now prudently held by the banks as reserves in excess of legal requirements. These proposals will not only insure sufficient credit facilities at reasonable cost, but will, in my opinion, afford credit to small farmers, either directly or through cooperatives, and likewise to large industrial enterprises. Upon the approval of these measures, the Assembly may also consider the wisdom of amending the Usury Law by reducing the maximum rates of interest that can be charged. Considering the importance of credit as an aid to economic enterprise, I request that these proposals, which will be transmitted to you shortly, be given early consideration.

One of the most pressing needs of the Philippines is develop men with the necessary technological training to supply the needs of modern industry and agriculture. There is likewise great need for men who may assume positions of responsibility in the management of business and industry. I believe that the institution which should be principally expected to supply these men is the University of the Philippines. Hence, I have urged the authorities of the University to propose plans for a reorganization of that institution with a view to raising its standards and placing it on the same level with the best institutions of its kind in the world. Pursuant to my request, the Board of Regents has been studying a plan of reforms in that institution and has employed two of the most competent educators of the United States to act as its advisers in that important task. One of the recommendations of the Board of Regents has been studying a plan of reforms in that institution and has employed two of the most competent educators of the United States to act as its advisers in that important task. One of the recommendations of the Board of Regents is the transfer of the University of the Philippines to a new site. This is considered essential in order that University students may be brought under a more strict and wholesome supervision and control, and the proper spirit and atmosphere may be created on the University campus. Moreover, the physical plant of the University must be enlarged and improved, and suitable laboratories provided, if it is to be enabled to grant adequate professional training, specially in science, demanded by present-day progress. Besides being inconveniently located, the actual site of the University is too small to permit of these improvements. The transfer of the College of Medicine will require the construction of a modern hospital on the new site. At any rate, the Philippine General Hospital is no longer adequate to supply the needs of the growing population of Manila, particularly for free patients, and a new hospital is instantly necessary. This transfer of the University will require a considerable outlay, but I believe that the expenditure will be more than justified if we succeed in our efforts to capacitate that institution to supply the Commonwealth with properly trained professional men, business executives, economists, and scientists. Once reorganized and its standards raised, the University of the Philippines would set a mark for private universities to emulate. Fortunately, the present physical plant of the University will not be wasted. The Government is in dire need of buildings to house several offices and the present buildings of the University can be made adequate for that purpose. It would be highly desirable for the National Assembly to act upon the proposed transfer of the University of the Philippines at this session, so that the Government may consider the availability of the buildings of the University in framing its program of construction for government offices.

Heretofore, the municipal and city governments have had, by law, the responsibility of maintaining all elementary instruction. But in order that the purpose of the Constitution may be accomplished, it has been necessary for the National Government to assume the burden of supporting the primary schools, leaving to the local governments only the maintenance of intermediate instruction. As regards secondary instruction, I recommend that provincial governments be authorized to spend their funds only for vocational high schools and not for academic high schools, which, beginning with the school year 1940-1941, should be maintained on a self-supporting basis. Vocational high schools, however, should continue to receive adequate national aid.

To properly cope with the problem of public health and sanitation, I desire to recommend the establishment of a Department of Public Health. This is necessary for a more effective coordination of public health administration, the better to insure the protection and care of the health of our people, particularly those in early age. Furthermore, it is desirable that the Department of Public Instruction be placed in a position to devote itself exclusively to the far-reaching problems of education and to give greater impetus to the up building of the character and physique of our youth. The new Department of Public Health should be given administrative supervision over public sanitation, hospitals, asylums, clinics, dispensaries, and other institutions that minister to the health of the people.

In order to effect an orderly and scientific development of our agriculture and to permit the intelligent planning of agricultural production, it is essential that as soon as possible we undertake an agronomical survey of the Philippines. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has completed the soil survey of several provinces. This work should be supplemented and accelerated. This agronomical survey has been recommended by the National Economic Council and the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs. I request that sufficient funds be appropriated to carry out this survey, which should indicate to the Government and to the people the crops adapted to different sections of the country.

Another recommendation of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs is the establishment of agricultural experiment and extension stations. This is a project which should merit our immediate consideration, if we wish to stimulate agricultural enterprises and modernize agricultural methods. I recommend the repeal of the

present law requiring a 5 per cent contribution by provinces and municipalities to the local agricultural fund. Better results could be obtained by a consolidation of these experiment and extension stations in typical areas than by dispersing them, as at present, and often duplicating the experiments, in each province. I recommend an appropriation from the proceeds of the excise taxes of a sufficient amount to cover the expenses for the establishment and operation of these stations in such localities as may be determined by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Another reason which induces me to make this recommendation is the fact that the finances of local governments are inadequate to support this service and that they cannot continue setting aside such a large portion of their revenues for these stations without jeopardizing other activities imperatively needed by local communities.

Modern industry and agriculture can not be efficiently operated without the aid of scientific research. This is particularly true in the Philippines where technological science of common knowledge is so far behind other countries. We have secured the advice of a renowned scientist to assist the Government in the establishment of an institution for scientific research. It should serve not only the Government but also private industry and agriculture. I shall submit to the National Assembly appropriate recommendations on this subject as soon as the studies of the National Economic Council and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce are completed.

The National Economic Council has recommended the establishment of an Institute of Nutrition. In order to protect the health and build up the physique of our masses such an institution is necessary. The people need to be educated on the nutritive value of different food products. There are many wholesome and nutritious articles that are consumed in some sections of the country which are unknown in others. It is also necessary to formulate dietary programs scientifically balanced which shall be within the reach of the people of the most modest means. Once the Institute completes its study of the different food products that could be produced abundantly and cheaply in the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce could conduct a campaign for the production of national interests, has agreed with our Government that political refugees who desire to come to the Philippines shall not be given visas by American consuls without the previous approval of our Government. We owe it largely to His Excellency, the United States High Commissioner, that the State Department was fully appraised of the situation and that this administrative policy was adopted.

At the last session of the First National Assembly I had occasion to express publicly our indebtedness to High Commissioner McNutt for his unstinted cooperation with our Government. I reiterate those sentiments now. It is, therefore, with a sense of great loss for our people and for me that I have heard of his contemplated return to the United States. If he should find it necessary to resign his present post, we would be deprived of a true friend and a most able collaborator, one whom we need at this most critical period and who would be very hard to replace. But if he must leave us, we wish him to know that he takes with him our affection and gratitude, and our prayer that he may succeed in his future undertakings.

To protect the interests of our people and to repair an injustice done to certain races by existing legislation, we should enact a new immigration law. Under our present immigration law passed by the Congress of the United States, Chinese, Indians, and some other Orientals may not be admitted into the Philippines. Ours is an oriental country, and we are an oriental people. We belong to the same racial stock as some of those excluded by our laws. So long as other foreigners are allowed to immigrate to the Philippines, we should admit, under the same terms and conditions, those coming from oriental countries. To avoid, however, a large influx of immigrants from any one country, we should establish a quota that will be the same for all countries.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, the world in which we live today is an entirely different world from that which we knew only a few years ago. Whereas before the World War, democracy was gaining ground everywhere, mankind is now divided into two great camps—those who believe in democracy and those who feel contempt for it as a completely discredited system of government. By our political education, by our convictions and by our inclinations, we are a democracy. We have established a democratic system of government and the perpetuation of this system will depend upon our ability to convince our people that democracy can be freed from those vices which have destroyed it in some countries, and that it can be made as efficient as any other system of government known to man. It behooves us; therefore, to prove that through a wise use of democratic processes, the welfare and the safety of the people can be promoted, thus contributing our share to the preservation of democracy in the world.

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Calling of Bids for Exploration and Development of Petroleum and Gas Deposits and Rejection of Bid of Standard-Vacuum Oil Company, February 2, 1939 MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**CALLING OF BIDS FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF PETROLEUM AND GAS DEPOSITS AND REJECTION
OF BID OF STANDARD-VACUUM OIL COMPANY**

[February 2, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Commonwealth Act No. 351, approved on August 22, 1938, authorized and directed the President of the Philippines to call for bids, upon adequate advertisement, for the exploration, exploitation and development, as independent contractors, of petroleum and gas deposits in such public and private lands in the Philippines as may be determined by him, upon such terms, conditions, and specifications as may be deemed by the President most advantageous to the Government; and upon the result thereof, to enter into and execute such agreement or agreements as may be necessary with the successful bidder or bidders.

Conformably to the provisions of the aforesaid Act, a call for bids was issued for the furnishing of all materials, labor and plant required for the prospecting, exploitation and development of the gas and petroleum-bearing properties and resources of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the processing and treatment of the gas oil so produced. A copy of the call, the Instructions to Bidders, and the General Conditions and Specifications are hereto attached as Appendices "A", "B", and "C". On the date set for the opening of the bids, that is, on December 1, 1938, only one bidder appeared, the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company, who presented a bid in terms as appear in attached Appendix "D".

After a careful examination and study of the bid of the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company, I decided that the same was unsatisfactory in that it contained radical and material departures from the proposal embodied in the call for bids and in the general conditions and specifications. Furthermore, I thought that section 38 thereof might defeat the principal purpose behind the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 351, to wit, to determine as early as practicable if oil and gas resources exist in the Philippines in commercial quantities. I, therefore, rejected the bid of the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company.

I desire to inform you, however, that I have to-day given instructions to the National Development Company to take the necessary steps so that preliminary works of exploration may be undertaken either by itself, or by a subsidiary corporation controlled by it, in order to ascertain whether or not oil and gas resources exist in the Philippines in commercial quantities.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on National Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1940, February 7, 1939

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On National Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1940**

[Released on February 7, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration the National Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940.

This budget consists of two main parts: Part I covers the General Fund proper; Part II deals with the Coconut Oil Excise Tax Fund. Although the condition and operation of the Coconut Oil Excise Tax Fund has, heretofore, been shown in the Comparative Financial Statement of the Budget separately from the General Fund proper, the appropriations chargeable to both funds were not segregated. Now, the items corresponding to both income and expenditures of the Coconut Oil Excise Tax Fund are budgeted separately from those of the General Fund proper. This is done to show clearly and readily not only the exact condition of the Coconut Oil Excise Tax Fund but also the purposes for which it is being spent.

GENERAL FUND (proper)

As I anticipated in my budget message of February 7, 1938, the revenue collections accruing to the General Fund proper of the National Government substantially declined, from P96,245,963.12 in 1937 to P88,359,951.42 in 1938, a difference of P7,893,981.70. Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, the total ordinary Income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, is estimated at P85,500,500, which is P2,850,431.42 lower than the actual collections realized in 1938 and slightly less than the total estimated income for the calendar year 1939. The decrease in the estimated income is due largely to prevailing business conditions and the expected fall in the collections from import duties and income taxes, and partly to the nonrecurring items of income, such as the refund of the government contributions to the Teachers' Pension and Disability Retirement Fund, and the transfers from the special funds of the Manila Harbor Board and the Philippine Sugar Administration, which amount to a total of P1,138,412.47. The economic factors which caused the reduction of revenue collections in 1938 still exist, and there is as yet no definite indication of improvement in the near future.

The Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, proposes a total appropriation from the General Fund proper of P83,406,930 for the ordinary expenses of the National Government. This amount is P46,034.79 less than the total authorized appropriation for the same purposes for the year 1939, which is P83,432,964.79. Despite the increase of P1,010,420 in the appropriation for the maintenance of the Philippine Constabulary, the proposed total appropriations are less than those of the preceding year and leaves an unappropriated balance between ordinary income and ordinary expenditures of P2,093,570. To accomplish this result, it is necessary to impose forced savings on the appropriations of all departments in the aggregate amount of P2,115,865. Moreover, in order to balance the budget, it has been found necessary to defer appropriations for the improvement and expansion of existing public services, including some for which appropriations were authorized in the General Appropriation Act for the current year and in other laws. I am listing hereunder the services for which no appropriations are provided with the amounts that were appropriated for the current year and those that are needed for the ensuing fiscal year:

PURPOSE	Amount authorized for 1939
---------	-------------------------------

(1) For the opening of new primary schools; for maintaining the existing: primary classes in Manila and Baguio; and for aiding municipal districts for the maintenance of intermediate classes where local funds are deficient	P1,000,000.00
(2) For strengthening the faculty and improving the facilities for instruction and research in the University of the Philippines and for the support of the College of Arts and Sciences at Baguio	
(3) Additional aid for scholarships for students for normal and vocational schools of the specially organized provinces so as to extend the benefits thereof to Palawan, Nueva Vizcaya, and Mountain Province	
(4) Additional appropriation for the expenses in connection with the holding of national interscholastic and regional athletic meets	
(5) For the establishment of an R. O. T. C. unit in the Philippine Nautical School	
(6) For the establishment, operation, and maintenance of Branch Libraries of the National Library in provincial capitals	
(7) For the extension of the control and eradication of malaria	950,000.00
(8) For the operation, maintenance and equipment of two pavilions for pay patients, one operating-room pavilion for pay patients, nurses home annex, X-ray pavilion and dispensary in the Philippine General Hospital	
(9) For the operation of additional Traveling X-Ray Units and combined Pneumothorax Clinics and Tuberculosis Dispensaries	P145,597.00
(10) For the operation and maintenance of public health laboratories for the study and investigation of communicable diseases	71,500.00
(11) For the operation and maintenance of offices of epidemiologists in the provinces to make scientific epidemiological studies and investigations of the prevalence of communicable diseases, under the Bureau of Health	45,000.00
(12) Aid to the City of Manila for the construction of public improvements, Commonwealth Act No. 242	1,000,000.00
(13) Contribution to the City of Baguio under section 2553 (a) of Act No. 2711, as amended, to be spent for the construction of public improvements at the discretion of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications	100,000.00
(14) Additional aid to the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation for the construction, maintenance and improvement of athletic fields throughout the Philippines	
(15) For additional subvention to the steamship company that maintains transportation service between Manila and Batanes to extend transportation facility to Sabtang	
(16) Additional amount for the organization of scouting parties to locate and fight locusts and to control and eradicate agricultural pests and diseases	
(17) Additional personnel, sundry expenses, and furniture and equipment for the following departments, bureaus and offices:	
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	
Salaries and wages	
Furniture and equipment	
Additional appropriation for the expenses of the National Information Service	
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE	
Salaries and wages	

Bureau of Customs, including additional inspectors of hulls and boilers and lightkeepers	P14,280.00	
Bureau of Banking	7,680.00	
Sundry expenses, furniture and equipment		
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
Salaries and wages		
Office of the Secretary	P4,800.00	
Parole Office	2,280.00	
Division of Investigation	2,640.00	
Bureau of Justice	9,240.00	
Courts of First Instance	10,000.00	
Bureau of Prisons	4,200.00	
Court of Industrial Relations	3,000.00	
Sundry expenses, furniture and equipment		
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE		
Salaries and wages		
Bureau of Plant Industry	P1,560.00	
Bureau of Animal Industry	7,680.00	
Bureau of Science	16,080.00	
Bureau of Commerce	1,500.00	
Weather Bureau	9,540.00	
Bureau of Mines	18,120.00	
Sundry expenses, furniture and equipment		
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Salaries and wages		
Bureau of Posts	P27,000.00	
Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey	4,680.00	
Sundry expenses, furniture and equipment		
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION		
Salaries and wages		
Bureau of Education	P140,920.00	
Bureau of Health	37,020.00	
Bureau of Public Welfare	3,480.00	
Bureau of Quarantine Service	6,690.00	
Office of Private Education	50,580.00	
Office of Adult Education for carrying out a ten-year program to reduce illiteracy and to intensify citizenship training and vocational guidance, a plan which calls for an annual appropriation of P760,000 during the first four years but to gradually decrease from year to year during the remainder of the period	572,800.00	

until a minimum of P150,000 is reached in the tenth year		
National Library	13,080.00	
Sundry expenses, furniture and equipment		
GENERAL AUDITING OFFICE		
Salaries and wages		
Sundry expenses, furniture and equipment		
Total		

Pursuant to the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 343, the Philippine Constabulary has been separated from the Philippine Army, and to place the former in a condition adequately to maintain internal peace and order, I have authorized an increase of the Constabulary force to its regular strength before the Army was organized. As already stated, this required an additional outlay of P1,010,420 which I am recommending in the Budget. Moreover, when the national defense program requiring a yearly appropriation of P16,000,000 for a period of ten years was formulated, it was not contemplated to continue the Philippine Constabulary as a permanent division of the Army; the intention was that the function of the Constabulary as a police force would be assumed by the projected National Police Force. As the organization of a National Police Force has not been effectuated and the National Assembly has by law authorized the reestablishment of the Philippine Constabulary as an independent organization, it cannot be expected that our national defense program can be carried out as originally planned if the Philippine Army is to be required to continue supporting the Constabulary with its appropriations. Accordingly, while in the present budget it is proposed that a substantial portion of the expenses of the Constabulary be taken from the Army, this is done upon the condition that the amount so spent shall be refunded to the Army when funds are available.

With regard to the maintenance of primary schools in chartered cities, municipalities and municipal districts, and the aid to municipal districts for the maintenance of intermediate schools in accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 381, I wish to invite your attention to the fact that due to lack of definite and adequate information on the exact amount needed, the sum of P15,000,000 provided in the budget is only a tentative estimate of what is believed necessary for continuing the operation of the classes that now exist. The necessary data are presently being gathered to ascertain the exact amount that will be required. Any amount that may be needed in excess of P15,000,000, including whatever may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 381 with respect to the cities of Manila and Baguio, for the opening of new classes during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, and for aiding municipal districts in the maintenance of intermediate classes, will have to depend on the approval of new taxes.

Your attention is invited to the fact that only P300,000 is included in this budget to carry out the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 359 providing for the payment of pensions to veterans of the Philippine revolutions and wars. Unless the income of the Government increases materially it will not be possible to set aside a larger amount for this purpose.

Likewise, the other items of appropriation listed above will have to be deferred until new sources of revenue are created.

The total appropriations from the General Fund proper proposed in the Budget for the next fiscal year is P84,016,930, including the items for extraordinary expenditures amounting to P610,000. These proposed expenditures are for the following purposes:

PURPOSES	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Perc</i>
1. For public education which includes the expenses for the operation and maintenance of primary, vocational, and special schools and classes, and the University of the Philippines	P22,797,890.00	27.1
2. For the national defense including a part of the expenses of	16,449,100.00	19.5

the Philippine Constabulary for maintaining internal peace and order (P3,250,000)		
3. For the sinking funds and interest on the public debt of the National Government	7,999,460.00	9.52
4. For the protection of the public health, including the expenses of the Bureau of Health; the control and eradication of malaria, tuberculosis, and other diseases; the operation, maintenance, establishment, extension and improvement of hospitals and public dispensaries	5,725,630.00	6.82
5. For the operating expenses of industrial and commercial units, including those of the Bureau of Posts, the Bureau of the Treasury, and the Division of Purchase and Supply	5,256,430.00	6.26
6. For executive direction and control which includes the expenses of the Offices of the President, the Secretaries of Departments and the Resident Commissioner to the United States, the General Auditing Office, the Bureau of Civil Service, the Budget Commission, and the Philippine Sugar Administration	P5,103,070.00	6.07
7. For the administration of justice, including the expenses of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Courts of First Instance and the Justice of the Peace Courts	4,094,650.00	4.87
8. For the revenue collection services, including the expenses of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs	2,545,190.00	3.03
9. For the development of agriculture, including the expenses of the Bureaus of Plant Industry, Animal Industry, and Lands	2,509,550.00	2.99
10. For the maintenance of law and order, including the expenses of the Bureau of Justice, part of the expenses of the Philippine Constabulary not included in the Army appropriation, and the expenses of the Department of the Interior for the administration of the local police forces	1,791,030.00	2.13
11. For the development of commerce, including the expenses of the Bureau of Commerce, the Bureau of Aeronautics and the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey	1,695,520.00	2.02
12. For legislation (National Assembly)	1,664,590.00	1.98
13. For the conservation and utilization of the natural resources, including the expenses of the Bureau of Forestry and the Bureau of Mines	1,245,240.00	1.48
14. For the maintenance of prisoners under the Bureau of Prisons and other correctional institutions	1,083,630.00	1.29
15. For other purposes, including the expenses of the Bureau of Public Works, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Court of Industrial Relations; those for the development and promotion of arts and sciences, the regulation of public services, public charity, protection and relief from public calamities, and publicity	4,054,950.00	4.83
Total	<u>P84,016,930.00</u>	<u>100.</u>

THE SURPLUS

During the year 1938 the total ordinary income exceeded the total ordinary expenditures by P12,410,395.21. Notwithstanding this excess, however, the unappropriated surplus declined from P60,765,168.87 at the end of the

year 1937 to P39,375,132.62 at the end of the year 1938, because of large appropriations and expenditures for extraordinary purposes.

The construction of public buildings in the Government Center authorized by Act No. 3597 is now in progress with the erection of the buildings for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Department of Finance. This will be followed by the construction of the Justice Building and the Capitol. To carry on the development of the Government Center as planned, the unreleased balance of the Government Center Fund, which amounts to P9,995,478.56, has been segregated from the unappropriated surplus.

Similarly, the amount of P1,221,487.68 advanced to the Irrigation Fund under Act No. 2152 has been segregated from the unappropriated surplus.

During the period from January 1 to June 30, 1939, the estimated ordinary income will exceed the estimated ordinary expenditures by P1,166,930, so that, after making the adjustments resulting from the segregation of the Government Center Fund and the Irrigation Fund, and after deducting the authorized appropriations for extraordinary expenditures for the same period, amounting to P705,000, the unappropriated surplus will be further reduced to P28,620,096.38.

When the unappropriated balance of P2,093,570, which is expected to result from the operation of the General Fund proper during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, is added to the above-mentioned unappropriated surplus, and after deducting therefrom the proposed appropriations for extraordinary expenditures, which amount to a total of P610,000, there will be an estimated unappropriated surplus in the fund of P30,103,666.38 at the end of the said period.

I wish to emphasize again the necessity of leaving a reasonable surplus in the National Treasury to take care of emergencies, especially at this time when conditions affecting our national economy both within our country and abroad are in a state of uncertainty. Any attempt to further deplete the surplus for other than the most urgent and vital public needs would be extremely inadvisable.

THE COCONUT OIL EXCISE TAX FUND

At the close of the year 1937, there was a cash surplus in this fund of P82,669,860.82. The total amount of collections and accrued interest credited to the Philippine Treasury during the year 1938 amounted to P20,486,581.12. Therefore, the total amount available in this fund for 1938 amounted to P103,156,441.94. The expenditures during the same year reached a total of P31,869,994.70, thus leaving an unexpended cash balance of P71,286,447.24 at the end thereof. However, the total outstanding balances of authorized appropriations made against the fund on the said date was P110,736,146.71, which is P39,449,699.47 greater than the available balance in the fund. No actual deficit was, however, incurred because I authorized the release of only a total of P44,678,406.71, under the authority vested in the President to suspend the expenditure of any part or all of the appropriations authorized by Commonwealth Act Nos. 304, 330, 347, 369, and 403. No part of the sum of P11,000,000 appropriated by Commonwealth Act No. 332 has so far been released as the National Abaca and Other Fiber Corporation is still under process of organization. After deducting the sum of P44,678,406.71 that has been released from the unexpended cash balance of P71,286,447.24, there was a net balance available for release of P26,608,040.53 at the end of the year 1938.

A total income of P21,513,119.50 is expected to accrue to the Philippine Treasury from the excise tax on coconut oil during the six months ending June 30, 1939. This amount represents estimated payments during this period, including delayed transfers of collections made during the later part of 1938. A total of P48,121,160.03 will, therefore, be available for release during the said period.

It is estimated that the income of the fund during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, will amount to P25,200,000. The appropriations proposed in the accompanying budget from this fund amount to a total of P509,690 and are limited to purposes that are related to economic adjustment. After deducting from this fund all the authorized appropriations chargeable to the same, there will remain only an unappropriated surplus of P6,190,760.03 on June

30, 1940. Obviously, the present condition of the Coconut Oil Excise Tax Fund would not permit further appropriations therefrom, especially if it is considered that the amounts shown as estimated income for 1939 and the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, will not become available for expenditure until they are actually credited to the Philippine Treasury.

The budget presented to you is balanced and shows that the condition of the finances of the Commonwealth Government is sound. To maintain this position, it has been necessary to effect substantial economies in expenditures and to limit salary increases as well as the creation of new positions to only those found to be absolutely necessary to insure the efficient operation of the Government.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Appropriation to Cover Expenses of the Osmeña Delegation Sent to the United States, February 8, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION TO COVER EXPENSES OF THE OSMEÑA
DELEGATION SENT TO THE UNITED STATES**

[February 8, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message dated January 24, 1939, I informed you that I have sent the Honorable Sergio Osmeña, Vice-President of the Philippines, as my special representative to Washington, D. C, to conduct, with the cooperation of the Resident Commissioner, the necessary negotiations with the Government of the United States with a view to securing the approval of legislation to effectuate the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs at an early date.

The expenses of the trip to the United States of Vice-President Osmeña and the personnel accompanying him were taken partly from the fund appropriated under Commonwealth Act No. 191. The Commissioner of the Budget has reported to me, however, that at present there is no balance left of the amount so appropriated, since most of it was used to defray the expenses of the Filipino members of the Joint Preparatory Committee and of the delegation headed by the President that went to the United States in 1937.

I, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law appropriating the sum of P150,000 to cover the necessary expenses of the Osmeña delegation and of other delegations that may hereafter be sent to the United States to bring to a successful termination the present negotiations between the United States and the Philippines for the adjustment of the future economic and trade relations between the two countries. The proposed appropriation may be taken from the unencumbered surplus of the General Fund proper.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Message of President Quezon on solutions of problems confronting the Hemp and Coconut Industries,
February 18, 1939**

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE HEMP AND
COCONUT INDUSTRIES**

[Read at the convention of coconut and hemp producers held in
Manila on February 18, 1939]

Gentlemen of the Convention:

I desire to extend to you my warmest greetings and to wish you success in your deliberations.

The coconut and hemp industries are two of the most important industries of the Philippines, both from the viewpoint of the number of the people depending on these industries and of their relative importance in our national economy. These two industries are now being operated on a competitive basis, enjoying no privileges nor preferences. They are vital to the economy of our country, considering that our other major industries might be adversely affected when the preferences now accorded to them are either curtailed or withdrawn.

The coconut and hemp industries are in a depressed condition. The present economic situation of producers deserves our deepest concern. In many areas producing coconut or hemp, the situation is rapidly approaching the point where it is no longer profitable to continue production.

The practical problems facing the coconut and hemp producers are low prices and high production costs. The latter is particularly true with regard to hemp production in abaca-producing provinces other than Davao. With regard to prices, these are determined by factors which are beyond the power of the Government or the industries themselves to control, inasmuch as world prices for these commodities are influenced wholly by the laws of supply and demand, and by the competition offered by substitute articles. There is unfortunately an abundance of vegetable and other oils competing with coconut oil, and there is likewise an abundance of fibers competing with hemp. When prices of coconut oil and hemp rise above certain levels, as compared with prices of competing commodities, manufacturers and users of coconut products and hemp find it more advantageous to use the substitute articles, thereby forcing coconut and hemp prices down to the competitive level. This situation necessarily establishes a relationship between the prices of our commodities and those of competing articles, except for a few special uses which require only a limited amount of coconut and hemp products.

While the Government realizes these facts, there is a field in relation to prices and marketing which might be possible for the Government to regulate in order to safeguard the interests of producers. The National Economic Council and other agencies of the Government are, at present, making a study to determine the degree by which prices for coconut products and hemp in the Philippines are being depressed because of speculative activities of dealers and brokers of these commodities in the open markets of the world. That study is now well under way and I expect them to reach definite conclusions in the near future. Proposals have been made for the establishment of a single sales agency for these products so as to eliminate objectionable speculative transactions affecting them. The question of excessive transportation rates, particularly in the case of hemp, is also being considered. When these

investigations are completed, the Government will take such action as may be necessary in the interest of our producers.

Another line of action that offers some possibility of ameliorating the situation of producers is the improvement of the quality of the products and the introduction of greater efficiency in production. Success in this respect will reduce production costs and also increase, or perhaps enlarge, the indispensability of coconut and hemp for certain specific uses. This field is entirely within our control; and we can effect improvement through our own initiative and effort. The Government will do everything within its power to bring to producers the assistance of scientific agriculture and scientific research, as well as credit facilities, which will permit them to improve the quality and yield of their products.

I have refrained from authorizing the organization of the National Abacá and Other Fiber Corporation until the studies and investigations now being made should reveal the practical steps that ought to be taken not only to remedy some of the problems facing the hemp industry but also to lay out a specific program of activities for the corporation. The experience of other countries that have attempted to manipulate world prices through monopolies or cartels, should teach us to be cautious and extremely careful in attempting to solve the problems involving these two industries through direct government intervention.

I wish to assure the members of the convention, however, that no effort will be spared by the Government to give to these two industries every assistance they deserve. I am prepared to recommend to the Assembly the appropriation of the necessary funds to aid these industries, upon the formulation of a workable plan which would insure a substantial and permanent benefit to producers.

I wish to assure you of my keen interest in your deliberations. I hope that the result of your studies will throw more light upon your problems, and that you will offer to the Government practical suggestions which may help us in reaching definite conclusions on how to safeguard your interests and promote your welfare best.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Appropriation of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos for Increasing the services of the Departments of the Interior and of Justice devoted to the maintenance of Peace and Order

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On Appropriation of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos for
Increasing the Services of the Departments of
the Interior and of Justice devoted to the
Maintenance of Peace and Order**

[Released on March 3, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Recent events in the provinces of Pampanga, Bulacan, and Nueva Ecija clearly indicate that the agrarian question is assuming such a serious proportion that it may require the use of force by the Government to protect the rights of the parties involved and to prevent any disturbance of peace and order. It is not necessary at this time to place the blame on any particular social group. It is sufficient to take cognizance of certain facts which undoubtedly contribute to the seriousness of the situation now prevailing in these provinces of Central Luzon. I have reference to the conflicts or controversies which arise between landowners and their tenants involving violations of the Rice Tenancy Law, which are aggravated by the activities of irresponsible labor leaders who advise their followers to take the law into their own hands.

The first step that I deem necessary to meet the situation is to provide the Department of Justice with adequate means by which it may detect violations of the Rice Tenancy Law and bring the guilty parties before the courts of justice. It is, likewise, important to provide the Department of the Interior with the necessary Constabulary force with which to prevent lawlessness and suppress violence. The situation calls for immediate action. Both the landowners, on the one hand, and the laborers and their leaders, on the other, should be made to realize that the Government is determined to settle their controversies with fairness to both parties, and to exact respect for the law by the use of force, if necessary. It is in this manner alone that we may prevent the shedding of more blood and uphold the authority of the Government.

In order to enable the Government to carry out the above objectives. I request that an appropriation of P500,000.00 be immediately approved by the National Assembly, to be spent at the discretion of the President for the purpose of augmenting or increasing the services of the Departments of Justice and the Interior devoted to the detection and prosecution of violators of the law and the maintenance of peace and order.

The public interest so requiring. I hereby certify, pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on Revision and Codification of Tax Laws

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On Revision and Codification of Tax Laws**

[Released on March 7, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message to the National Assembly dated January 24, 1938, I called your attention to the fact that our system of taxation, both national and local, is in many respects obsolete, does not distribute the tax burden equitably, and is proving, in its operation, inadequate to meet the expanding needs of the Government. I, therefore, urged a revision of the whole tax structure, in order to meet these increasing expenditures, to distribute the tax burden more nearly on the basis of ability to pay, and to facilitate the achievement of essential social objectives.

To carry out this purpose, I created a Tax Commission on August 23, 1938, composed of competent men representing not only the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government, but also private business. The Commission was instructed to effect a revision of the entire tax system, with a view to establishing an integrated and coordinated system which may be satisfactory as regards fiscal productivity, administrative feasibility, theoretical justice, and be better adapted to the political, economic and social conditions of the Philippines. I also asked the Commission to consider the need of promoting a sound and equitable redistribution of wealth.

The Tax Commission has completed the revision of the National Internal Revenue tax system, and I now transmit to you its report and recommendations. The Commission proposes a revision and codification of the internal-revenue laws in the form of a bill entitled "An Act to Revise, Amend, and Codify the Internal Revenue Laws of the Philippines". The Commission has advised me that in future reports it will deal with local taxation and the needed changes in respect to the tariff and navigation laws.

NECESSITY OF REVISING THE PRESENT REVENUE TAX SYSTEM

For many years I have realized that the existing revenue laws of the Philippines needed revision, for the reason that since the first internal revenue law was enacted in the year 1904, no scientific study has been attempted to adjust them to our changing economic and social conditions. In fact, what we have today is a hodgepodge of various revenue acts enacted piecemeal by the lawmaking body without regard to the paying ability of the taxpayer or the effects of each tax upon the different economic classes of the nation. During the last decade economists and statesmen the world over have devoted much time to the study of the science of public finance; new concepts of justice in taxation have been evolved; new sources of revenue have been tapped; taxation has been given a new meaning and an additional social utility; notable improvements have been made in the machinery of collecting taxes; and many nations have endeavored to perfect their own system of balancing income and expenditures.

In the Philippines, agriculture has made material progress; commerce and industry have been given impetus; the wealth and income of the nation have materially increased and their distribution has been altered; and a new political structure has been erected to meet our forthcoming responsibilities as a sovereign state. But our tax machinery has remained unchanged. It is out of line with modern economic concepts; it is not responsive to the expanding fiscal requirements of the Government; it fails to distribute the tax burden in proportion to the ability and resources of the different economic classes of the people; and its administrative features are not abreast with the standards set by progressive nations.

Moreover, the present system of taxation is a source of a grave injustice. A cursory examination of our tax laws shows that a majority of the existing internal revenue taxes are paid by the consumer; hence, they weigh heavily

upon the masses of the people and too lightly upon those better able to pay them. The measure recommended by the Tax Commission will remove this inequality.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN REVENUE LAWS RECOMMENDED

The Commission has revised the entire system of revenue legislation and has recommended numerous changes, of which the most important are the following:

Income Tax

In line with the principle of placing greater emphasis on ability to pay, the income tax has been thoroughly remodeled, the base of the tax materially broadened, the rates moderately increased, deductions and credits restricted, and opportunities for avoidance and evasion reduced.

Many persons are now exempt from the income tax although they possess a certain degree of taxpaying ability, largely because of the high personal exemptions granted to them. Out of a population of over sixteen million, only 8,860 individuals paid an income tax during the year 1937. The proposed changes will materially increase the number subject to tax.

Estate, Inheritance, and Gift Taxes

In pursuance of the policy of avoiding- the accumulation of enormous wealth in a few hands and to secure a more equitable redistribution of wealth, the present inheritance tax is supplemented by an estate tax based on the entire net estate at death, as well as by a gift tax which is imposed in order to prevent the avoidance of the estate and inheritance taxes through gifts *inter vivos*.

Luxury Taxes

With a view to producing a balanced tax system which will distribute tax burdens more equitably on the basis of ability to pay, increased taxes are recommended upon luxuries of widespread consumption, such as beer, liquors, cigarettes, and amusements. Certain luxury goods are proposed to be withdrawn from the operation of the sales tax and are proposed to be subjected to tax at higher rates, as follows: On original sales of jewelry, perfumes, and toilet articles, there is sought to be imposed a tax of 10 per cent; on automobiles, sporting goods, and refrigerators, 5 per cent; and on automobile parts, accessories of beauty parlor equipment, musical instruments, etc., 3 per cent.

Tax on Business, Sales and Occupation

The sales tax is retained, in part, but its objectionable features are minimized. For the purpose of reducing as far as possible the burden of tax on people of small means the exemption of small merchants whose gross sales do not exceed P200 a quarter is restored, irrespective of the kind of goods sold and whether the sale is made inside or outside of a public market. Sales at retail of domestic food products regardless of value in the public markets continue to be entirely exempt from the sales tax.

The cumulative effects of the sales tax are also narrowed by the withdrawal from its scope of specified luxury goods on which the tax is increased as above stated, as well as by the exemption of certain agricultural products, like sugar, hemp, copra and rice, from its operation and the substitution therefor of a single, uniform commodity tax at H per cent. The primary purpose of this proposal is to do away with the rather flagrant inequalities in the operation of the present law, as applied to said articles, because it discriminates so unfairly in operation against the small producers distant from the market whose product passes through the hands of several middlemen, and in favor of large producers who are simultaneously exporters and, therefore, are entirely exempt from the sales tax.

There is likewise proposed a compensating tax for all persons other than merchants or manufacturers who receive directly goods from outside of the Philippines. This is intended to prevent the growing avoidance or evasion of the tax through mail orders and indent purchases and to prevent unfair competition with domestic merchants.

ADDITIONAL REMEDIES SECURED TO TAXPAYER

Under the present law, a taxpayer cannot recover a tax illegally or erroneously collected from him unless the tax was paid under protest. It is now proposed to permit the recovery of taxes illegally or erroneously collected notwithstanding the absence of protest against their payment. The new policy is that the Government should not, at the expense of the taxpayer, retain what is not legally due it. The purpose of the change is to give full justice to the taxpayer and to encourage prompt and voluntary payment of taxes. The only limitation is that the claim for refund or recovery of the tax be filed within two years from the date of its payment.

Moreover, in the proposed bill the Collector of Internal Revenue is required to verify the return of a taxpayer within five years from the date the return is filed, otherwise no assessment for the year covered by the return can be legally made against the taxpayer, except in cases where the return filed was false or fraudulent. This proposal is in accord with the provisions of the Bookkeeping Law and is designed to secure the taxpayer against unreasonable investigations after the lapse of five years following the filing of his return.

ESTIMATED EFFECTS OF TAX PROPOSALS—SHARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN INCREASED COLLECTIONS

While it is difficult to make an accurate estimate of the effects of the various tax proposals embodied in the attached bill, it has been computed that, if the proposed bill is enacted into law, for the two fiscal years immediately ahead, assuming the continuance during that period of business conditions substantially on the level of 1938, the increased yield will amount to approximately P10,000,000 and P15,000,000, respectively.

In the search for new sources of revenue, the needs of the provincial and municipal governments have been taken into account along with those of the National Government. It is proposed to abolish the obsolete limitation upon the share of internal revenue taxes pertaining to provincial and municipal governments to the amount provided in 1909, and give them a percentage of the revenue which will be double the amounts allotted them under existing law. Likewise it is proposed to grant provincial and municipal governments a share in the income and inheritance taxes collected, thereby stimulating their interest in the collection of these taxes. Moreover, it is proposed to turn over to the local governments the taxes on agricultural products which are intended to supplement the property taxes which now pertain to them exclusively. Assuming that business conditions gradually improve for several years and that the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs and the proposals embodied in the attached bill are adopted this year, the ultimate result, according to the best estimates available at present, would be an increase in total collections over 1938 by approximately P20,000,000. About half of this increase will accrue to local governments and the other half to the National Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After studying the report and recommendations of the Tax Commission, I am convinced that the measure proposed by the Commission is reasonably adequate to meet the increasing needs of the Government; that the burdens of taxation will be distributed more equitably among the different economic classes of the nation, that is, each citizen will contribute his part in the maintenance of the Government in proportion to his ability or resources; that many of the defects extant in the present tax system will be corrected; and that the proposed legislation will set up an administrative tax machinery which will secure a more just and effective administration of the revenue laws. The bill proposed by the Tax Commission has my approval.

The members of the Tax Commission have devoted long and patient study to the matters which are now submitted to you. The thoroughness with which they have effected their work is worthy of the highest commendation. They have performed a task of the greatest importance to our country, not only conscientiously, but with distinct statesmanship and ability. The principles underlying their proposals are in accord with the basic policies of my

administration. I consider it my duty to express to the chairman and members of the Tax Commission the acknowledgment of the Government and my own for the excellent service they have rendered. This recognition I also desire to extend to the members of the technical staff who assisted the Tax Commission in its studies and deliberations.

It is my confident expectation that the National Assembly will give careful consideration to the Report of the Tax Commission, and I earnestly recommend that the necessary legislation be enacted before the close of the present session in line with the findings and recommendations of the report. This is necessary to raise the needed revenues and to establish justice in our tax system. I am convinced that with the approval of the proposed tax code, it will not be necessary for the Government to amend our tax laws for at least ten years, unless economic and social conditions should materially change in the meantime. It is meet and proper to give this assurance to business elements in order that they may be able to plan their operations accordingly. Frequent changes in tax laws create a condition of uncertainty in business which is harmful to the progress of the community.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Appropriations for the Second Regular Election of members of National Assembly and the plebiscite on Woman Suffrage, March 31, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SECOND REGULAR ELECTION
OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE
PLEBISCITE ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE**

[March 31, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend that a law be enacted appropriating the sum of P2,740,000, of which P2,700,000 is intended to cover the expenses for the second regular election of the members of the National Assembly held on November 8, 1938, and P40,000 to cover the unpaid expenses for the plebiscite on the question of woman suffrage held on April 30, 1937.

Under the provisions of section 19(a) of Commonwealth Act No. 357, known as the Election Code, the expenses of an election shall be charged against the branch of the Government for which the election was held. As the expenses for the election of the members of the National Assembly above mentioned, estimated to be P2,700,000, were advanced by the Department of the Interior and by the local governments, it is necessary that the National Government should reimburse such advances.

It appears that no more funds are available from the amount appropriated to cover the expenses for the plebiscite on the question of woman suffrage held on April 30, 1937. It is estimated that the amount of P40,000 more will be needed to pay all pending bills chargeable against the same.

I, therefore, urge that the National Assembly approve the proposed appropriations in order to liquidate the subsisting liabilities of the National Government in this regard.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly transmitting Financial Report of the
Operation, Maintenance and Improvement of the Los Baños Quarry Mesage**

of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
to the
Second National Assembly
Transmitting financial report of the Los Baños Quarry

[Released on April 14, 1939]

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE
AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LOS BAÑOS QUARRY
FOR 1938**

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a detailed financial report of the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Los Baños Quarry for the fiscal year 1938, which was submitted by the Director of Public Works pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of Act No. 3459.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly Transmitting Report of the Board of Directors of the National Development Company Covering its Operations in 1938, April 14, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TRANSMITTING

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY COVERING
ITS OPERATIONS IN 1938**

[April 14, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of Commonwealth Act No. 182, as amended, the report of the Board of Directors of the National Development Company covering the operations of the said Company during the year 1938.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly Transmitting Financial Report of the
Operation and Maintenance of the Baguio Dwellings and Equipment for Rent for 1938, April 14, 1939**

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TRANSMITTING

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
OF THE BAGUIO DWELLINGS AND EQUIPMENT
FOR RENT FOR 1938**

[April 14, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a detailed financial report of the operation and maintenance of the Baguio Dwellings and Equipment for Rent for the fiscal year 1938, which was submitted by the Director of Public Works pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of Act No. 3340.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Important and Urgent Public Improvements, May 12, 1939 MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

IMPORTANT AND URGENT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

[May 12, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In your last regular session, you approved Common wealth Act No. 330, appropriating the sum of P96,351,300 for carrying out a program of public works that is expected to be completed within a period of four years. A careful reexamination of the various projects therein included has revealed that certain items thereof can be suspended without prejudice to the country for the time being, and the funds appropriated therefor utilized for other projects of greater importance, which are more urgently needed.

I have, therefore, ordered the suspension of certain projects in accordance with the authority granted to me by law. The total appropriation authorized for these projects amounts to about P5,680,000, and I recommend that an equal amount be appropriated for public works, including allotments to be expended for the construction of important and urgent public improvements, particularly school buildings, and the drilling of artesian wells.

I also recommend that from the Port Works Fund the sum of P2,500,000 be appropriated, P955,000 for the Manila North Harbor, and the rest for other national as well as some municipal ports. A substantial amount should be devoted for the construction and improvement of lighthouses and other aids to navigation.

To keep the country abreast with the progress of aviation, provision should be made for the construction and improvement of national airports and landing fields.

Every year we see sections of the country devastated by Hoods; houses are carried away; crops are damaged or destroyed; livestock and even human beings are killed; and vast public improvements, including railroad lines, high ways and bridges, and private property are damaged. To control the rivers that cause such destruction of human lives and property and thereby prevent, or at least minimize, the damage and losses occasioned by floods, necessary appropriations should be provided for the completion of projects for flood control works the construction of which has been started, and for the improvement of those that have already been completed. Likewise, provision should be made for the construction, repair, improvement, and extension of sea protection works.

I am sending to you herewith a list of the projects that the Department of Public Works and Communications has recommended to be undertaken. I recommend this program of public works to your early and favorable consideration.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the necessary legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on urgent public needs requiring a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, May 15, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**URGENT PUBLIC NEEDS REQUIRING A SUPPLEMENTARY
APPROPRIATION BILL**

[May 15, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my budget message of February 7, 1939, I listed a number of important public needs for which appropriations could not be provided in the National Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, due to lack of available funds. Inasmuch as the enactment of the revised National Internal Revenue Law is now practically certain, I am submitting to you herewith a list of the most urgent and vital of the said public needs and I earnestly recommend the approval of the necessary legislation that would appropriate the funds that are required therefor, including the amount needed for reinforcing the personnel of the Bureau of Internal Revenue which will be required to meet the increase activities incident to the enforcement of the law above referred to.

It is estimated that the National Government will realize an additional income of P2,500,000 during the first year of operation of the revised National Internal Revenue Law. The attached list contemplates a total appropriation of P3,548,815, which exceeds the said additional income by P1,048,815. The latter amount will have to be taken from the excess, amounting to P2,049,355, of the total estimated ordinary income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, as shown in the Budget, over the appropriations provided in the General Appropriation Bill and other authorized expenditures for the said fiscal year, which are chargeable against the current ordinary income. The net excess of the estimated ordinary income over the estimated ordinary expenditures for the incoming fiscal year will, therefore, be reduced to P1,000,538.

The Bureau of Customs needs the services of at least two assistant medical officers for the proper inspection of the sanitary condition of interisland vessels. Its force of inspectors of hulls and boilers also needs to be increased in order that the supervision over the seaworthiness of the said vessels could be made more effective.

The services of a radiologist are needed by the Bureau of Prisons hospital which has been provided with an X-ray apparatus.

The Weather Bureau is not as yet provided with appropriate apparatus and personnel for the observation of seismic conditions in the different sections of the country. It also needs the services of two additional telephone clerks that could transmit at all times to interested parties information regarding the condition of the weather. The necessary appropriations for these purposes are provided in the attached list.

An item of P2,500 for additional subvention to the steamship company that can maintain a transportation service between Manila and Batanes via Calayan, with calls at Itbayat and Sabtang, should be placed at the disposal of the Department of Public Works and Communications to enable this department to provide a much needed communication and transportation facility for the inhabitants in those isolated islands.

The Bureau of Health should be given additional personal to enable it to adequately perform its duties in connection with the proper segregation and care of the lepers in a different regional treatment stations. Provision for the necessary personnel and other operating expenses of the Central Luzon Leprosarium for the second semester of the incoming fiscal year should also be made. The personnel of the Section of Industrial Hygiene of the Division of Sanitation, the San Lazaro Hospital, the National Psychopathic Hospital, the Southern Islands Hospital, and the Baguio Hospital are inadequate for the volume of work that they are required to perform and should be reinforced.

The Bureau of Public Welfare needs the services of an additional dietitian to adequately take care of the increased population of Welfareville.

The enlargement of the services of the Philippine General Hospital as a result of the construction of the two additional pavilions and one operating room for pay patients, a nurses' home annex, an X-ray pavilion, and a new dispensary, which are expected to be completed at about the middle of the incoming fiscal year, requires a corresponding increase in the appropriation for the operating expenses of the said hospital from January 1 to June 30, 1940.

The biggest item of appropriation proposed in the attached list is the additional outlay for the operation and maintenance of primary classes in municipalities, municipal districts and chartered cities, amounting to P2,770,000, which will be added to the sum of P15,000,000 provided for the purpose in the Budget.

The need for the organization of a Reserve Officers Training Corps in the Philippine Nautical School has long been felt. For this purpose an outlay of P11,000 is proposed.

The revenue sources from which a large part of the funds are proposed to be appropriated, new and untried as they are, cannot yet be fully depended upon for certainty as to the full realization of the estimates that have been made of their expected proceeds. Therefore, it is advisable, to keep the National Budget from becoming unbalanced, that, in authorizing the proposed appropriations, provision be made that no part thereof shall be set up in the books of the Auditor General or otherwise made available for expenditures without the previous authority of the President.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines. I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of a Supplementary Appropriation Bill which would appropriate the necessary funds for the above-mentioned purposes.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Proposed Constitutional Amendments, May 15, 1939

**MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

[Delivered at the Session Hall of the National Assembly at the
Legislative Building, Manila, on May 15, 1939]

Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have come on an errand that may seem unusual; namely, to address the National Assembly on a subject which, I was informed, you will discuss in accordance with the decision reached at a caucus held by the members of this body last Saturday (June 13). I have decided to ask your leave so that I may frankly lay before you my views on the matter, for silence on my part might be misunderstood and might place me in a false light before the people.

According to my information, you have decided by an overwhelming majority of votes, to pass during this session a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution which, if approved by the Philippine electorate and subsequently by the President of the United States, would permit my reelection as President of the Philippines.

It is no secret to any one who had closely followed the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention that framed and adopted the present Constitution of the Philippines, that it was I who had conceived the idea of no reelection for the President; and it was largely because of my personal appeal to the members of the convention that the section prohibiting the reelection of the President was inserted. I had not been long in office when the talk about my reelection commenced to be heard, and I promptly gave out the statement that I would not allow myself to be induced to seek reelection. Unless my memory fails me, the first member of the National Assembly who expressed to me his opinion that I should be reelected, is the gentleman from Batangas, Honorable Eusebio Orense. I remember that I discussed the subject at length with him, and I think I was able to convince him that the matter should be dropped. From time to time, and as the occasion arose, I reiterated publicly my determination not to be a candidate for reelection.

In all candor I must say, however, that it has not been displeasing to me to learn that there is a sentiment in the country in favor of my reelection. I would not be human, if I felt otherwise. The resolutions favoring my reelection, especially when they came from nonpolitical sources, gave me the deepest satisfaction and happiness. I considered such resolutions as evidence that the people are pleased with my administration, and they served to spur me to go on and carry out the policies I had enunciated. But despite these resolutions, I remained firm in my stand that I would not allow myself to be persuaded to become a candidate to succeed myself.

But when I learned that the National Assembly was considering the question of proposing amendments to the Constitution so as to permit my reelection, I felt it my duty to weigh carefully the reasons advanced in support of the pro position. The argument, which has been frequently heard, that at present there is no other Filipino who could step in and take my place and carry on the work I have started, has made the least effect on me. Even if I were vain

enough to want to think that no Filipino today could be as good a President as myself, I would not be able to close my eyes to the fact that there are many among our countrymen who possess exceptional qualifications to head our Government. I need not mention their names at this time, for I have not come here to advocate the candidacy of any one.

However, when your Speaker, who discussed this question with me recently, stated that independently of whether or not I should be reelected, he felt that the Constitution should be amended by shortening the term of office of the President from six to four years and permitting his re election—his reason being that six years are too long ‘for a bad President and too short for a good one—he created a grave doubt in my mind as to whether or not it was wise for me to attempt to oppose the consideration by the people of the question raised by the Speaker. So, I told Speaker Yulo that if the National Assembly shared his views on the subject, I would not interpose any objection to the enactment of a measure that would call for a constitutional convention for the purpose of considering this question, and such other questions as the convention might deem advisable to take up. I further told the Speaker that should a convention be called, and there was a consensus of opinion that the Constitution should be amended so as to fix the term of office of the President at four years, instead of six, and permit his reelection, I would recommend to the convention that not more than one reelection be allowed; and that, in any event, no person should be permitted to remain in office as President for more than eight consecutive years. I would also recommend, I added, that such an amendment be given a retroactive effect, so that, although I have been elected under the present Constitution, the amendment would affect my own tenure of office.

Concerning the question of my reelection, I informed Speaker Yulo that I have not changed my mind on the subject, but that if the Constitution should be amended in the manner above stated, I would give the matter further consideration, since my reelection would in that case, mean only two more years added to my present term. I let Speaker Yulo as well as Floor Leader Paredes understand clearly that under no circumstances would I be willing to serve more than eight years altogether, counting from the date of my inauguration in November, 1935.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly: I understand that have agreed among yourselves not to call a constitutional convention, but to propose the amendment by direct action of the National Assembly. Under the Constitution, you have the power and authority to do so; but it is my hope that you will still be persuaded to adopt the other method, and call a constitutional convention.

I have several reasons, which I shall presently mention, why I think you should call a convention if you are convinced that the Constitution should be amended so as to shorten the term of office of the President and permit his reelection. But if you should insist on having the National Assembly itself act upon the proposed amendment, I would deem it my duty to declare before you on this solemn occasion that even if your resolution were approved by the Philippine electorate and, subsequently, by the President of the United States, I would not permit myself to be a candidate for reelection. But, while I am reluctant to serve as President over my present term of office, yet I might be willing to serve for more than six years if the amendment to the Constitution should be adopted by a constitutional convention called for the purpose, whose delegates should have stated in their platform or certificate of candidacy that they would vote for an amendment to the Constitution reducing the term of office of the President from six to four years, and allowing one reelection. An amendment adopted in this fashion would in effect originate from the people, and I then might feel obligated to heed their command. Let me repeat, however, that in no case would I consent to hold office for more than eight years.

George Washington was as great a patriot as any ever born. He was certainly endowed with far superior qualifications to lead his people than I can ever hope to possess. Yet, he did not consider it his duty to be the head of his nation for more than eight years. That precedent is good enough for me.

Let me now give the other reasons why you should call a constitutional convention.

In my opinion, several important amendments to the Constitution should be proposed. These amendments are even more necessary than the proposed change in the term of office of the President, although I fear that, in one case at least, it would be futile to induce you to propose the amendment. I am referring to the revival of the bicameral legislature. Since it is human nature for you not to look with favor to the creation of another body which would

share equally with the National Assembly the legislative powers of the Government, thus reducing by half the Assembly's present authority, I shall not attempt to tax your patience by vainly discussing the subject. It is only being fair, however, to advance you the information that, at the next convention of our party, I intend to recommend the adoption of a plank in its platform favoring a constitutional amendment to revive the senate, but making each senator elective by national suffrage, instead of by senatorial districts as before.

The other amendments to the Constitution which, I think, should be adopted must embody the following:

1. The Electoral Commission should be abolished, and the power to decide election contests affecting seats in the Legislature should be vested either in the courts of justice exclusively, or in the Legislature alone.
2. If we are to continue having a unicameral legislature, the power to try impeachments, except in the case of the members of the Supreme Court, should be vested in that court; and the power to impeach left to the National Assembly. In cases involving the members of the Supreme Court, the power to impeach should be given to the Chief Executive, while the power to try impeachments should remain with the National Assembly. Under this system, when the highest officials of one branch of the Government are impeached, the other two branches—not only one of them—would participate in determining the guilt or innocence of the parties under impeachment.

A most dangerous power is vested in the National Assembly when it is allowed to act as prosecutor and judge at the same time. This power is given to a commission of the National Assembly—the Commission on Impeachment; and the situation is not altered, although the power to try impeachments is left to that body itself, because the Commission on Impeachment is chosen by the National Assembly from among its own members.

Lastly, according to my latest information from Washington, there is some hope that Congress may approve the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs in so far as they affect the trade provisions of the Independence Act up to 1946. If the Congress should pass legislation to this effect, an amendment to the Constitution would become imperative.

Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the National Assembly: I hope it is not necessary for me to assure you that I am touched to the very depths of my soul by the action you have taken at your caucus last Saturday. Nothing I can say, nothing I can do, will adequately express the extent and intensity of my grateful sentiments. Whether I leave my office at the end of my term of six years, which is my expectation even as I now address you, or at the end of eight years, as it may possibly be, your action at the caucus will forever constitute the greatest and most cherished compensation for my long and, I humbly believe, devoted services to our common country.

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on sending of two members of National Assembly Abroad to study best means of promoting Abaca and Coconut Industries, May 17, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**SENDING OF TWO MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ABROAD TO STUDY BEST MEANS OF PROMOTING
ABACA AND COCONUT INDUSTRIES**

[May 17, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The solution of the problems confronting the abacá and coconut industries in the Philippines requires an adequate knowledge not only of conditions in this country but also abroad. It is essential that investigations be made as to methods of cultivation, preservation, treatment and marketing of these commodities in the principal coconut and abacá producing centers, as well as the conditions affecting them in the principal markets of the world. I, therefore, suggest the advisability of sending two members of the National Assembly each on a separate mission to undertake a study and investigation abroad of the best means of promoting, respectively, the abacá and coconut industries in the Philippines.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on sending of a Delegate to Washington to help the Osmeña Mission in its work, May 17, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**SENDING OF A DELEGATE TO WASHINGTON TO HELP
THE OSMEÑA MISSION IN ITS WORK**

[May 17, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

The Congress of the United States is now considering legislation vitally affecting the Philippines. As is well known, I have sent Vice-President Sergio Osmeña to Washington as my personal representative. In coöperation with Resident Commissioner Joaquin M. Elizalde, Vice-President Osmeña is carrying on negotiations with the Government of the United States on matters of legislation. I believe that the presence in the United States of a delegate from the National Assembly will strengthen our position there, and at the same time insure prompt action by the National Assembly on whatever legislation might be required as a result of any action that might be taken by the Congress of the United States on pending Philippine legislation. I, therefore, suggest that the National Assembly consider the advisability of sending a delegate to Washington for the purposes above indicated.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on the Necessity of Immediate Enactment of 52 Bills, May 17, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
NECESSITY OF IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF 52 BILLS

[May 17, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the bills enumerated in the attached certified list.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Reference: **LIST OF BILLS CERTIFIED FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT**

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly Transmitting Report of Committee Created to Study the Effects of Recent Earthquakes on Buildings, May 10, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TRANSMITTING

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE CREATED TO STUDY THE EFFECTS
OF RECENT EARTHQUAKES ON BUILDINGS**

[May 10, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In connection with my message to you dated March 25, 1938, I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your consideration, the attached report of the committee created by me under Administrative Order No. 44, to study the effects of earthquakes on buildings, and to recommend the enactment of such legislation as may be necessary to regulate the construction of buildings in the Philippines in respect to resistance to earthquakes.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Disapproving Bill No. 448, June 16, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
DISAPPROVING BILL No. 448—TEXTBOOK LAW

[June 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 448, entitled “Ley sobre libros de texto.”

The action taken by me on this matter is motivated by the fact that you failed to include in this measure certain wholesome provisions found in the old law (Act No. 2957, as amended by Act No. 3772), namely: (*a*) the provision that “the textbooks selected and approved shall be used for a period of at least six years from the date of their adoption,” a requirement which is necessary in view of the many complaints received from the public that books are changed much too often to the prejudice of the parents of the school children; and (*b*) the requirements that “it shall be unlawful for the Board to consider for adoption or to adopt any treatise, textbook, or manuscript in whose authorship, editorship, or preparation a member of the Board may have direct or indirect interest,” and that “it shall be likewise unlawful for any member of the Board, during the period of his incumbency, to own, directly or indirectly, any interest whatsoever in any firm, partnership, or corporation, publishing or dealing in school textbooks,” which requirements should be retained in our statute books in order to keep members of the Board on Textbooks above criticism.

The Secretary of Justice has also pointed out to me that the provision of Section 5 of the bill, which empowers the Board to appoint “tecnicos,” unless this term is interpreted to refer only to those who do not discharge functions of government and whose work is merely advisory, may run counter to the provision of the Constitution (Article VII section 11, subsection 3) which states, among others that the “National Assembly may by law vest the appointment of inferior officers in the President alone, in the courts, or in the heads of department.”

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Approval of Bill No. 958, June 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 958—AMENDING THE PHILIPPINE
TARIFF ACT OF 1909**

[June 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly :

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 958. entitled “An Act to amend certain sections of the Philippine Tariff Act of nineteen hundred and nine, as amended, for the purpose of raising revenue,” with the exception of Section 3 thereof, which I hereby veto by virtue of the authority conferred upon me by subsection (3), section 11. Article VI, of the Constitution.

I am constrained to veto Section 3 of the bill because the exclusion of foreign vessels from the privilege of drawback on all fuel oils used for their propulsion, as intended in Section 3, would, if enacted, constitute flag discrimination, and, therefore, would violate certain commercial treaties of the United States applicable to the Philippines.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Approval of Assessment Law, June 16, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT LAW

[June 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have today signed Bill No. 1003, entitled "Assessment Law," which now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 470, despite one very objectionable feature thereof, as I believe that, as a whole, the bill is a decided improvement on the present Assessment Law.

The feature of the bill which is highly objectionable is the proviso contained in section 53 which will, pending the new assessment in any province, reduce by 50 per cent the assessed valuations of all permanent plants and/or trees beginning on January 1, 1940, such reduced assessments to continue until the first day of January of the year following the completion of the reassessment of real property in said province. A legislative relief in the form of a flat rate reduction of assessments throughout the Philippines is unscientific, because it is not based on the result of an investigation into the merit of each case of assessment and it disregards the question of whether the present assessed value is higher or lower than the prevailing market or true and full value. Furthermore, the adoption of the proviso does not consider at all the important factor of the effect that such reduction would have upon the finances of the provincial and municipal governments. The Secretary of Finance has conducted a survey of the probable effects of the approval of this proviso in several provinces; and from the telegraphic reports that he has received from the provincial treasurers, he informed me that the adverse effect of the flat rate reduction of the assessments, in at least sixteen provinces, will be very alarming, and that the total provincial and municipal deficits in said provinces will, in all probability, amount to more than half a million pesos. It is my purpose to recommend to the National Assembly the repeal of this proviso at its next session.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Disapproving Bill No. 439, June 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**DISAPPROVING BILL No. 439—PROVIDING SECURITY
AGAINST FRAUD IN GRADING OF LUMBER FOR SALE**

[June 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that, I have today disapproved Bill No. 439, entitled “An Act to provide security against fraud in the grading of lumber offered for sale.”

The Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce and the Director of Forestry are of the opinion that the requirement that every lumber dealer has to stamp his name and that of the lumber on every piece of lumber sold will increase appreciably the cost of handling lumber; and that such cost will, in all probability, be added to the selling price of the lumber which, in the final analysis, will mean added burden to the consumers. Furthermore, it has been pointed out to me that the proposed bill will be impracticable of enforcement in the case of small pieces of lumber, such as mouldings and nipa strips of which thousands are being produced for the local markets. In the case of planed lumber, its marking as required might so mar its surface as to reduce its value.

Therefore, much as I favor the purpose behind the proposed measure, which is to curtail the practice of certain lumber dealers of passing inferior classes of lumber for superior ones, I am constrained to disapprove this bill in view of the considerations above stated.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Disapproving Bill No. 817, June 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**DISAPPROVING BILL No. 817—AMENDING THE TRADE-
MARK LAW**

[June 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 817, entitled “An Act amending Act Numbered Six hundred and sixty-six, to correct certain unfair practices in the importation of merchandise under an already registered trade-mark or trade-name.”

I believe that the Trademark Law already affords to honest merchants all the protection against unfair practices in connection with trade-marks and trade-names that they require; and that the approval of Bill No. 817 would merely enable certain merchants, owners of merchandise with a registered trade-mark or trade name, to maintain a complete monopoly on this merchandise, and thus restrict free competition in the market, to the prejudice of the consumers. Furthermore, it has been noted that the bill above referred to affords protection only to trade-marks or trade names owned by citizens of the Philippines or persons domiciled in the Philippines, and does not afford the same protection to trade-marks or trade-names owned by citizens of the United States not domiciled here. This is against the provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, which guarantee to citizens of the United States the same civil rights as are enjoyed by citizens of the Philippines. Lastly, it appears that the bill covers even cases of importation of merchandise made by persons for their own personal use and not for the purpose of trade or commerce, and I believe that this will cause undue hardship upon individual consumers.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Disapproving Bill No. 828, June 16, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**DISAPPROVING BILL No. 828—EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF
REOPENING CADASTRAL PROCEEDINGS ALREADY
DECIDED BY THE COURTS TO ANOTHER
TWO YEARS**

[June 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 828, entitled “An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred and seventy-six.”

The effect of the bill, if converted into law, will be to extend the benefit of reopening cadastral proceedings which have already been finally decided by the courts to another two years, because its effectivity will again commence to run from the date of the approval of the same. I note that the benefit of Commonwealth Act No. 276, which is sought to be amended herein, was extended several times in the past by the enactment of separate laws. This is no reason, however, for further extending the provision of said Act, as the persons intended to be benefited were already given all the opportunities to file their claims. If those persons failed to take advantage of such opportunities, they themselves are to blame. There must be finality in the decisions of our courts; and unless court decisions have caused an apparent injustice, it is the better policy that they should not be disturbed by legislative enactments.

I sympathize, however, with the plight of landowners whose properties have been declared public lands through no fault of their own or through excusable negligence. For the purpose of doing justice to such landowners, I shall give instruction to the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce to see to it that they are given the benefits of the free patent provisions of the Public Land Act subject to the restrictions contained in said Act.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Approval of Bill No. 830, June 17, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 830—AMENDING THE PUBLIC
WORKS ACT**

[June 17, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 830, entitled “An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Three hundred and thirty, entitled “An Act appropriating ninety-six million, three hundred fifty-one thousand and three hundred pesos for public works’,” with the exception of some items, as the changes involved can no longer be made, the original appropriations having been either partly expended or have balances insufficient to meet the proposed amendments. These items are:

SECTION 1:

Antique	Items 19, 21, 28, and 33;
Bulacan	Items 40, 69, and 77;
Nueva Ecija	Item 78;
Nueva Vizcaya	Item 56;
Pampanga	Item 46;
Pangasinan	Items 24 and 30;
Samar	Item 104; and
Tarlac	Item 53.

SECTION 3:

Bulacan	Items 40(a), 69(a), and 77(a);
La Union	Items 12(a) and 89(a);
Mindoro	Items 22(a) and 22(a); and
Pangasinan	Item 137(a).

The suppression in section 5 of Item 2 under Antique; of Item 18 under Bohol: of Items 18, 24, 28, 29, and 92 under La Union; of Items 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 under Mindoro; of Items 11 and 15 under Nueva Vizcaya: of Items 29

and 145 under Pangasinan; of Items 105 and 109 under Samar; and of Item 54 under Tarlac, is also hereby disapproved.

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 475.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Approval of Bill No.796—Amending Act Appropriating Funds for Elementary School Buildings, June 17, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 796—AMENDING ACT APPROPRIATING
FUNDS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

[June 17, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 796, entitled “An Act to amend certain items and to insert others under section one, paragraph A, and to amend section three, of Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred forty,” with the exception of the following items whose original appropriations have already been either expended or released:

SECTION 1:

Albay	Item 11
Bulacan	Items 22, 25, and 31
Pangasinan	Item 134.

SECTION 2:

Bulacan	Items 22 (a) and 31 (a)
Pangasinan	Items 134 (a) and 134 (b).

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 474.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on Tydings-Kocialkowski Act, August 15, 1939

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Tydings-Kocialkowski Act**

[Released on August 15, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I take pleasure in transmitting to you, for your information and appropriate action, an official copy of the Act of August 7, 1939, passed by the Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands, to provide for the adoption of a constitution and a form of government for the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes'." This law embodies substantially the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, which you have previously approved, as regards necessary adjustments in the economic and other relationships between the United States and the Philippines prior to July 4, 1946. It may be recalled that the original bill introduced in the Senate included provisions continuing preferential trade relations between the two countries until the year 1961, as was recommended by the Joint Preparatory Committee. Instead of these provisions, realizing perhaps that the problems involved could be better solved if action thereon were deferred, the Congress of the United States has directed in this Act that a conference be held at least two years prior to July 4, 1946, for the purpose of formulating recommendations as to trade relations between the United States and the Philippines after independence.

The approval of this new law should be regarded by the Filipino people as another indication of the sustained interest of the United States in our welfare, and of the desire of the American people to be fair and just to the Philippines and to do everything reasonably necessary to make possible our adequate preparation for independent nationhood. I wish again to make avowal of our gratitude to the government and people of the United States and, particularly, to President Franklin D. Roosevelt who, despite the multitude and the gravity of the problems confronting the American nation, had persistently urged the enactment of this law to forestall the ruin of some of our basic industries and to facilitate in some measure our economic readjustment. I also wish to record the nation's acknowledgment of the eminent public service rendered by Vice-President Sergio Osmeña and Resident Commissioner Joaquin M. Elizalde in relation to the approval of this law. Throughout the long process leading to its enactment they represented the Philippines with dignity and ability of the highest order, and it was partly due to their persistence in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles that the measure was finally passed. Our nation's recognition should likewise go to Floor Leader Quintin Paredes, former Secretary of Finance Antonio de las Alas, former Resident Commissioner Camilo Osias, Benito Razon, and other officials of our Government who were associated with our representatives in Washington in the effort to obtain the approval of this legislation.

Summarizing the important provisions of this new Act, we find that—

- (1) It establishes an annual duty-free quota in the United States for cigars, scrap tobacco and stemmed and unstemmed filler tobacco, coconut oil, and pearl buttons, and relieves them from the payment of the export tax imposed by the Independence Act. With regard to embroideries, in the computation of the export tax to which they are subjected, the value of any cloth of United States origin used in the production thereof is excluded.
- (2) It continues until July 4, 1946, the annual quota of 6,000,000 pounds for Philippine cordage which quota, under Cordage Act, would be reduced to 3,000,000 pounds beginning on May 1, 1941.
- (3) It guarantees to Filipino citizens and corporations the enjoyment, in the United States and all places subject to its jurisdiction, of all the rights and privileges that they enjoyed at the time of the inauguration of the Commonwealth.

(4) While maintaining the prohibition against the use of the proceeds of the excise taxes to subsidize directly or indirectly producers or processors of copra, coconut oil, or allied products, it liberalizes the restrictions now imposed upon the Philippine Government in the expenditure of the proceeds of these taxes by merely requiring that such expenditures be necessary in adjusting the Philippine economy to a position independent of trade preferences in the United States and in preparing the Philippines for independence, and by expressly authorizing the expenditure of such funds to grant facilities for better curing of copra or for bona fide production loans to copra producers. The President of the United States, however, is authorized to cause the withholding of payments to the Philippine Treasury of the proceeds of excise taxes in case said funds are spent for purposes other than those contemplated in the law.

(5) It expressly exempts copra and Manila fiber (abaca) from the payment of the export tax, so that even if these articles were made dutiable in the United States, they would still be free from this tax.

(6) It establishes regulations for the collection of export taxes and the liquidation of the bonded indebtedness of the Philippines, its provinces, cities, and municipalities incurred prior to May 1, 1934.

(7) It provides for the acquisition or retention by the United States of such lands and properties in the Philippines as may be necessary for its diplomatic or consular establishments.

(8) It provides for a conference to be held in such manner, time, and place as the President of the United States may determine, at least two years prior to July 4, 1946 for the purpose of formulating recommendations as to future trade relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic. It is provided that this conference shall be between representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, such representatives, on the part of the United States, to consist of three senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three persons appointed by the President of the United States, and, on the part of the Philippines, to consist of nine representatives to be appointed by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly.

The provisions that I have briefly outlined will, in my opinion, take care of the most immediate difficulties that many of our industries have to face. The law, however, does not solve adequately nor completely the larger and more important problem of economic readjustment, for unless preferential trade with the United States is allowed to continue for at least fifteen years after independence, we could not entertain the least hope that our basic industries, representing a production amounting to about forty per cent of our total annual income, may survive the sudden application of the full American tariff on July 4, 1946. The ruin of these industries would severely affect our economy precisely at a time when the economic base of our national structure needs greatest strength and consistency, for it will occur upon our emergence as an independent state. We are doing everything humanly possible to prepare for that eventuality, but the difficulties of the task must be evident to all who have studied our economy and the degree of its dependence upon preferential trade with America. Recognizing this fact, the Joint Preparatory Committee recommended the continuation of preferential trade after independence. In this connection I wish to remark that preferential trade, to be of any assistance to the Philippines, must consist of effective preferences, such as will permit the gradual adjustment of our industries looking to their final survival or convenient substitution. It is my hope and abiding confidence that when the economic conference convenes at least two years before independence, this matter will receive careful consideration. I am strengthened in this belief, because there will be members of the American Congress in that conference and I am certain that, once the problem is understood by them, they will do that which is just and fair for the Philippines and the United States.

I believe the Philippines should prepare early for this conference. It is my purpose at your next regular session to submit recommendations to that end.

Aside from the material advantages which this new law would bring to us, there is one other consideration which enhances its significance. When the Independence Act was passed, the Filipino people accepted it on the assurances given to me by President Roosevelt that any inequalities or injustices in the law would be eliminated. This Act, in

part at least, is a fulfillment of that pledge. Our reliance in America has once more been vindicated and we have every reason to feel that our faith in her has not been misplaced.

The effectiveness of the Independence Act was conditioned upon its acceptance by the Philippine Legislature or by a convention called for the purpose of passing upon that question. That requirement has established the Independence Act as a covenant between the United States and the Philippines. It has been our view, and we still hold that view, that the provisions of the Independence Act may not be changed or altered without the consent of the constitutional representatives of our people. The Act recently passed does not require that acceptance or consent. I feel, however, that in making the effectiveness of the Act dependent upon the fulfillment of certain conditions which are entirely within our control and decision, the principle of mutuality involved has been respected. Notwithstanding this, in order to clearly maintain an adherence to this principle, I recommend that the National Assembly formally accept this new Act before it initiates the required steps that are a condition to its effectiveness. Section 7 of the Act provides as follows:

“SEC. 7. (a) Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this amendatory Act shall become effective on January 1, 1940, if before that date—

“(1) Subsection 5 of section 1 of the Ordinance Appended to the Constitution of the Philippines shall have been amended in the manner now provided by law, by changing the final period of said subsection to a comma, and by adding thereto the words: ‘as amended by the Act of Congress of the United States approved (followed by the date of the approval of this amendatory Act),’ and section 3 of the said ordinance shall have been amended by inserting immediately after the words ‘approved March 24, 1934,’ the same amendatory language mentioned above.

“(2) The President of the United States shall have found and proclaimed that the Philippine Government has enacted, subsequent to the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution of the Philippines (as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection). a law relating to export taxes (as provided in section 1), and has retained those Philippine laws relating to sinking fund and currency matters which were in effect on May 20, 1938.

“(b) Section 1 of this amendatory Act shall remain in full force and effect from the effective date thereof until July 4, 1946, unless the President of the United States shall, prior to July 4, 1946, have found and proclaimed that the Philippine Government has, in any substantial respect, repealed or amended, or failed or refused to enforce or administer any Philippine law referred to in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section. In the event of such a finding and proclamation, section 1 shall immediately become ineffective and trade relations between the United States and the Philippines shall be as provided by section 6 of the Act of March 24, 1934, prior to the enactment of this amendatory Act and by section 13 of the said Act.

“(c) Sections 6 and 7 of this amendatory Act shall become effective upon its enactment.”

In the belief that this Act would prove beneficial to the Philippines, I urge the National Assembly to pass the necessary resolution and legislation to amend the Philippine Constitution as required in this section. I also recommend that the process for this amendment be expedited so that the National Assembly might take the action required under paragraph (2) of section 7 and thus complete all the conditions established for the effectiveness of the Act before January 1, 1940.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation necessary to carry out the foregoing recommendations.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly transmitting Report of National Sugar Board,
August 18, 1939**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TRANSMITTING
REPORT OF NATIONAL SUGAR BOARD

[August 18, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for your information, an official copy of the report of the National Sugar Board created under Executive Order No. 157, dated August 17, 1938.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly transmitting Report of National Sugar Board,
August 18, 1939 MESSAGE**

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TRANSMITTING

REPORT OF NATIONAL SUGAR BOARD

[August 18, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for your information, an official copy of the report of the National Sugar Board created under Executive Order No. 157, dated August 17, 1938.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Loyalty to, and cooperation with, the United States during the European War, September 5, 1939

MESSAGE*
OF HIS EXCELLENCY
MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON LOYALTY TO, AND COOPERATION WITH, THE UNITED STATES DURING
THE EUROPEAN WAR

(Delivered on September 5, 1939 at its special session)

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

For the second time in the history of our relations with the United States we are facing the grim realities of a war between nations in which the lives of millions of men are involved and the fate of civilization itself hangs in the balance. I dare say that none of those who went through the stirring days of the World War ever suspected that he would live long enough to see reenacted that greatest of human tragedies. People the world over cherished the thought that they were emerging from the wake of that great holocaust into an era of everlasting peace. Unhappily, subsequent events did not fulfill the fervent hopes and just expectations of men of good will.

During the World War, the Government and people of the Philippines had occasion to demonstrate, both in words and in action, their loyalty to the United States. Then an American Governor-General was at the helm of our Government. Now we have a Chief Executive of our own and a Government established in accordance with a Constitution adopted by our own people. Not only is the Legislature exclusively in the hands of the Filipinos, but so are the executive and judicial branches of the Government.

At present America is fortunately at peace with the world, including the nations at war. In consequence, we find ourselves in a similarly favorable situation. As a neutral power, however, America has certain obligations to perform not only in the continental Halted States but in the Philippines as well. It behooves us therefore to assure the Government of the United States of our loyalty and devotion which have grown even deeper and stronger in the perspective of the many years of unselfish American endeavor to serve the best interests of the Filipino people. In this critical moment, I wish again to pledge to America, on behalf of our people, our unstinted loyalty and our fullest cooperation in the promotion of the ideals of justice and liberty and in the safeguarding of the legitimate rights and interests of both the United States and the Philippines.

We want the Government and people of the United States to feel that we are bound to them not merely by the presence of the American flag in our country but by the nobler and stronger ties of gratitude and affection — bonds of sentiment that are born of the human heart and which transcend the obligations of allegiance implied in the presence of that flag. Our loyalty to the United States is rooted in something more permanent, something more lasting, than legal or political relationships. Our loyalty is built on faith — faith in the sense of fairness and justice of the American people, faith in the great principles and ideals for which the Stars and Stripes proudly waves over land and sea, over a free and happy people.

Our loyalty to the great American nation is but the fruit of her altruistic policy in dealing with our people — a policy which has been characterized by justice and good will and by both moral and material assistance. That loyalty, I am sure, will outlive the sovereignty of the United States over our country, and will attest for all time the moral grandeur of America and the virtuality of her free institutions.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly: We are confronting a situation which demands the exercise of prudence and foresight. We must be alive to the problems which may arise at any moment. We must be ready to cooperate with

America and to protect the interests of our people. With this end in view, I have come to you to ask that necessary and adequate legislation be passed to empower this government to meet any emergency that may arise.

*Source: Messages of the President. Manila, Bureau of printing, 1940. Vol. 5, part 1, pp.342-344.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Message of President Quezon on to the Second National Assembly on Necessity of enacting Emergency Measures, September 16, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
NECESSITY OF ENACTING EMERGENCY MEASURES

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In my message of September 5, 1939, I invited your attention to the necessity of enacting appropriate legislation to meet any emergency that might arise from the present critical state of world affairs. I am now taking the liberty to submit for your consideration the following measures:

1. An Act to authorize the President of the Philippines, during the period ending on March 31, 1941, to take over, for use or operation by the government, any public service or enterprise, to appropriate the necessary funds therefor, and to prescribe penalties for interfering with the exercise by the government of its authority thereunder.
2. An Act to regulate the transfer of vessels and of shipping facilities for the period ending March 31, 1941, and to provide penalties for the violation thereof.
3. An Act to authorize the President of the Philippines to suspend, either wholly or partially, during the period ending March 31, 1941, the operation of Commonwealth Act Numbered four hundred and forty-four, commonly known as the eight-hour labor law.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2), section 12, Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the foregoing measures.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Appropriation of P2,550,000 for opening of New Primary Classes in the Philippines, September 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION OF P2,550,000 FOR OPENING OF NEW
PRIMARY CLASSES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the need for an appropriation with which to open new schools and classes under the Bureau of Education, in order that those children of elementary school age who were refused admission in the schools last June because of lack of teachers and equipment may be properly accommodated.

The Director of Education has reported to me that it would be urgently necessary to open five thousand public primary classes during the current year in the various municipalities of the Archipelago in order to accommodate the school children who are seeking enrollment in the primary grades. I have likewise been informed that the appropriations authorized in the General Appropriation Act (Commonwealth Act No. 446) and the Supplementary Appropriation Act (Commonwealth Act No. 457) for the operation of primary classes are hardly sufficient to maintain the classes already existing, so that no part thereof can be made available for opening new classes.

In view of the foregoing facts, I earnestly urge upon the National Assembly the immediate consideration and approval of an Act appropriating the sum of P2,550,000 for the opening of new primary classes or as aid for the operation and maintenance of existing ones.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the necessary legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Correction of Defects in Eight-Hour Labor Law, September 16, 1939 MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

CORRECTION OF DEFECTS IN EIGHT-HOUR LABOR LAW

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Since Commonwealth Act No. 444, commonly known as the Eight-Hour Labor Law, was enacted, several defects in the law have been noted and several difficulties in its enforcement encountered, which need correction. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (3), section 3, Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby authorize you to consider in your current special session the necessary legislation in order to correct those defects and to avoid those difficulties.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), section 12, Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of such legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Payment of Bonds of National Power Corporation in Philippine Currency, September 16, 1939 MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**PAYMENT OF BONDS OF NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
IN PHILIPPINE CURRENCY**

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the necessity of enacting legislation providing that the principal and interest of bonds to be hereafter issued in the name and on behalf of the National Power Corporation under the authority of Commonwealth Act No. 120 shall be payable in Philippine Currency or its equivalent in lawful currency of the United States.

Commonwealth Act No. 120 now provides that bonds issued pursuant to the authority therein contained shall be payable in gold coin or its equivalent. The reason for such a provision was the fact that, at the time of the enactment of the said law, gold was the standard of monetary value in the United States and in this country. With the abandonment of the gold standard, the redemption of these bonds in gold coin may become extremely difficult and disadvantageous.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of such legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Prevention of Monopolization and Injurious Speculations Affecting Articles of Prime Necessity, September 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**PREVENTION OF MONOPOLIZATION AND INJURIOUS SPECULATIONS AFFECTING ARTICLES
OF PRIME NECESSITY**

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

It is a matter of common knowledge that there are certain dealers and merchants who, taking undue advantage of the present situation, try to reap enormous profits at the expense of the poor consumers. While honest business must be encouraged and promoted, the public must be protected against those who are dominated by an inordinate desire to make huge profits. No man or group of men has any right to manipulate the prices of the necessities of life. Profiteering must be stopped.

I am, therefore, submitting for your consideration a proposed measure which will empower the President, for a limited period of time, under section 16 of Article VI of the Constitution, to prevent monopolization and injurious speculations affecting articles of prime necessity; requisition foods, materials and supplies; set limits to prices; and promulgate such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary in the public interest.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2), section 12, Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the measure above mentioned.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Fixing Within Specified Limits the Tonnage Dues on Foreign Vessels, September 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**FIXING WITHIN SPECIFIED LIMITS THE TONNAGE DUES
ON FOREIGN VESSELS**

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

A grave situation has arisen in the shipping business of the Philippines of which it is my plain duty to inform you. Since the outbreak of the war in Europe, the freight rates charged by shipping firms on merchandise exported from the Philippines to foreign countries have increased considerably. These freight charges are taken from the world's price of Philippine-exported goods and are defrayed by Philippine producers. In view of this, the taxes collected on foreign vessels should also be increased in proportion to the increase in freight rates. For this reason, it is urged that the Chief Executive be authorized by the National Assembly to fix within specified limits tonnage dues.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation on the matter.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Proposed Amendments to National Internal Revenue Code, September 16, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE**

[September 16, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

At your last regular session, you enacted Commonwealth Act No. 466, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code. Since the final form in which the said Act was approved by you differed in several respects from the original bill as introduced in the National Assembly and upon which hearings were held by the Committee on Ways and Means, I deemed it in the public interest to hold hearings on the bill as passed before stamping my approval thereon. During the hearings, I came to the conclusion that some of its provisions should be clarified to avoid doubts as to their meaning and purport, and that some of the innovations introduced in the system would permit evasions of the law resulting in decreased revenues.

I am, therefore, taking the liberty of submitting to you some suggestions as to how the National Internal Revenue Code should be amended.

Specific tax on denatured alcohol for motive power. (Section 142).—In computing the specific tax on denatured alcohol used for motive power, the law permits the deduction of the gasoline used in the production of said denatured alcohol. The reason for this deduction is that gasoline which is used as a denaturant has already paid the corresponding specific tax. For the same reason, it is suggested that you permit the deduction of other denaturants used in the production of denatured alcohol for motive power where the specific tax on such denaturants has already been paid.

Merchants' sales tax. (Sections 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, and 188).—It is estimated that if the provisions of the Tax Code affecting the sales tax are not amended, there will be a loss of revenue which may amount to several millions. I recommend, therefore, in order to forestall that loss that the single turn-over tax be applied only to sales of luxuries and semiluxuries and on the principal agricultural products of the country and that the original sales tax of 1 1/2 per cent on sales of ordinary articles be maintained at least until the experiment of collecting a single turn-over tax shall have proved to be a success, particularly from the standpoint of the adequacy of the revenue to be derived therefrom. It is feared that with the abrupt elimination of the cumulative sales tax, the expected revenue from this source of about fourteen million pesos a year might not be realized, thereby affecting the essential functions of the Government.

For this reason, a new provision to be known as section 186(a) should be inserted in the law imposing a merchants' sales tax on every sale, barter, or exchange of articles other than those enumerated in sections 184, 185, 186, and

189. This new section should also provide that the articles enumerated in section 189, the tax upon which has not been paid under that section, shall be subject to the tax at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent on their original sale, barter, or exchange. The purpose of this amendment is to cover imported rope, sugar, rice, coconut oil, corn, and desiccated coconut so that when these imported products are sold in the Philippines by the importer, the same shall be subject to a single tax at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent of their gross selling price.

It is also recommended that you amend section 187 by limiting the operation of the consignment tax to merchants and producers consigning commodities for sale or manufacture abroad and by exempting from the said consignment tax articles imported into the Philippines and reexported from the same in their original condition by the importer, and minerals and mineral products when consigned abroad by the lessee, concessionaire, or owner of the mineral land from which removed.

To clarify section 188, it is suggested that it be amended by expressly providing that agricultural products and ordinary salt shall be exempt from the merchants' sales tax only when they are sold, bartered, or exchanged by the producer or owner of the land where produced and that sales of rope, sugar, rice, corn and desiccated coconut shall also be exempt from the sales tax, as these products are taxed in section 189. Section 188 should likewise be amended by exempting from the merchants' sales tax those persons who are exempt from the payment of the annual fixed taxes established in section 182.

Tax on certain agricultural products. (Section 189).—I think the provision relating to derivatives and products of raw materials where such derivatives and products constitute 60 per cent or more by weight or value of the said materials from which the articles are produced or manufactured should be eliminated. In view of this provision, doubt has been entertained as to whether or not molasses is exempt from the tax of 1 1/2 per cent on the ground that molasses does not constitute 60 per cent or more of the raw materials from which it is produced. On the other hand, it would be unjust to collect a merchants' sales tax of 3 1/2 per cent on the selling price of molasses when a tax of 1 1/2 per cent is collected on raw or refined sugar. For this reason, the proposed amendments seek to tax by-products at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent, irrespective of the ratio thereof to the raw materials from which derived. This section should likewise be amended by exempting from the 1 1/2 per cent tax rice or corn milled which does not exceed one cavan for every single owner in any one day, in order to enable the poor to mill their palay or corn for their own consumption without paying the tax prescribed in this section.

Compensating tax. (Section 190).—The present law imposing the compensating tax provides for no exemption with respect to the value of the goods imported or received in this country. This has given rise to considerable delay in the withdrawal of goods, particularly of mail packages, from Customs' custody. On account of the growing volume of indent and mail order business in this country, there is now a serious congestion of mail packages in the Manila Post Office. To obviate this difficulty, it is proposed that the compensating tax be not imposed on any single shipment consigned to a single person when the total value thereof does not exceed P25.

It is also proposed to amend section 190 so as to exempt from the operation of the compensating tax tourists or transients, as well as residents returning to this country from abroad bringing with them goods valued at not more than P50, or goods which, if imported from countries other than the United States, would be admitted free of duty, either absolute, subject to express condition, or upon compliance with corresponding regulations.

Issuance of sales invoices. (Section 204).—The law requires every merchant to issue sales or commercial invoices where the value of the articles sold exceeds P10. It is proposed that you further require every merchant whose gross annual sales exceed P20,000 to issue sales or commercial invoices, irrespective of the value of the goods sold. It has been observed that many importers who are also retailers do considerable business involving individual sales of much less than P10 without issuing invoices. This practice places those retailers who issue invoices to cover sales amounting to even five or ten centavos in a very disadvantageous position. At the same time it may seriously affect the revenues of the Government.

Amusement taxes. (Section. 260).—It is proposed that this section be amended so as to clarify the provisions regarding the collection of amusement taxes. These taxes should be paid in the same manner and at the same time-as the percentage taxes on business.

Approval of the President of the United States. (Section 371).—This section should be amended so as to require the approval by the President of the United States of sections 187 and 190 of the Tax Code. In the case of section 187, which imposes the consignment tax, the approval of the President of the United States is considered necessary in view of the proposed amendment of said section 187 with a view to limiting the application of the consignment tax to merchants and producers. This will meet the objection received in some quarters to the effect that although the present rulings of the collector of Internal Revenue limit the application of the consignment tax to merchants and producers of certain agricultural products, said section 187 might be interpreted later in such a way that even American citizens taking with them their personal belongings upon their return to the United States would be subjected to the payment of the consignment tax.

With regard to section 190, which imposes the compensating tax, the approval by the President of the United States is considered advisable, in order to forestall any possible claim that the tax partakes of the nature of a duty on imports and should, therefore, be approved by the President of the United States in accordance with the Tydings-McDuffie Law. While it is believed that the compensating tax may be legally imposed without the prior approval of the President of the United States, for it is identical in nature and incidence to the use tax in vogue in several states in America which was held constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, yet inasmuch as said section 190 is now proposed to be amended, it would seem to be advisable for this Government to have the same approved by the President of the United States so as to avoid further discussion as to whether or not the compensating tax partakes of the nature of a duty on imports which, to be valid, must be approved by the President of the United States in accordance with the Tydings-McDuffie Law

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the necessary legislation to effect the desired amendments to the National Internal Revenue Code.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Creation of a New City embracing an area extending from the Northeast boundary of Manila to the Mariquina River, September 18, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**CREATION OF A NEW CITY EMBRACING AN AREA EXTENDING
FROM THE NORTHEAST BOUNDARY OF MANILA TO THE
MARIQUINA RIVER**

[September 18, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to invite your attention to the urgent need of provision for the adequate control and development of the area in the vicinity of the new site for the University of the Philippines and the People's Homesite Corporation's Subdivision project near the City of Manila. Aside from the fact that those undertakings involve a large investment, it is obvious that the objectives we are seeking can not be attained unless the development of their environs is in harmony with our aims. The purpose in transferring the University is to provide an adequate educational plant in an atmosphere conducive to moral and scholastic standards appropriate to our highest public institution of learning. The homesite project is designed to provide the workingmen and permanent employees with homes at reasonable cost and also to serve as a model residential and community center. With these ends in view, their political and social regulation should be coordinated with that of their surroundings. For that purpose, it is proposed to create a new city, embracing an area extending from the northeast boundary of the City of Manila to the Mariquina River, chartered to do all things necessary for the health, safety and happiness of its inhabitants.

In such special circumstances, it is considered advisable that the officials of such city should be appointed by the Chief Executive, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

I recommend the enactment of the necessary legislation to accomplish the purpose above indicated.

For the purposes of paragraph (2), of section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the proposed measure.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Appropriation of P100,000 to Effect Adjustments of Personnel in the Department of Labor, September 18, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION OF P100,000 TO EFFECT ADJUSTMENTS
OF PERSONNEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

[September 18, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to recommend the enactment of a law to appropriate the sum of P100,000 in order to enable the President of the Philippines to effect the necessary adjustments of personnel and such other changes in the Department of Labor as are contemplated in Commonwealth Act No. 453, especially for the purpose of reorganizing the Immigration Division.

Since the establishment of the Commonwealth regime, many laws have been passed for the protection of the rights and interests of labor, in line with the social justice policy to which the present administration has been committed. This has resulted in the manifold increase of activities of the Department of Labor, calling for a corresponding increase in its personnel. It is not enough that laws have been approved for the benefit of the working classes: there must be also an effective organization to carry out the purposes of said laws.

For the purposes of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the corresponding legislation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Creation of a Joint Educational Survey Committee, September 18, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
CREATION OF A JOINT EDUCATIONAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

[September 18, 1939]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

In view of the annual increase in the expenses for schools, I think a thorough study should be made of the problem both in its educational and economic aspect, and for this reason I am contemplating the creation of a joint committee composed of officials of the Executive Department and members of the National Assembly as follows:

The	Secretary	of	Public	Instruction,	Chairman
The	Chairman	of the	Committee on	Public Instruction	of the National
The	Secretary	of	the	National	Finance
The	Chairman	of the	Committee on	Appropriations	of the National
The	Chairman	of the	Committee on	Ways and Means	of the National
The	Commissioner	of	the	Budget,	and
The	Director of Education,	Members			

Since I intend to appoint members of the Assembly to this Committee, I would like to hear your views on the matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The Honorable
The Speaker
National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Suspension of Services or Projects which are not of Immediate Necessity, September 18, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**SUSPENSION OF SERVICES OR PROJECTS WHICH ARE NOT
OF IMMEDIATE NECESSITY**

[September 18, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

In view of the certain decline in the Customs collections which may reach an amount that can not at present be ascertained, it would seem necessary to invest the Executive with sufficient power, in addition to the authority contained in section 7-I (2) of the Budget Act, to reduce the expenses of the Government by suspending or suppressing such services, activities or projects as in his opinion are not of immediate necessity.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2), section 12, Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the measure suggested above.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Emergency Legislation, September 25, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

[September 25, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have called you to this Second Special Session so that you may have the opportunity to pass such laws as in your judgment may be necessary to safeguard the neutrality of the Philippines and to protect the public interest.

I am informed that you share with me the apprehension that unless emergency measures are enacted at this time the people will suffer unnecessary and unjust hardships on account of unscrupulous profiteers. Hence I felt it my duty to summon you to a special session soon after the adjournment of the last one.

It is indeed with diffidence that I have called this session to urge the passage of emergency legislation: first, because I am reluctant to assume the grave responsibility which the possession and exercise of extraordinary powers necessarily entail; and, second, because it will mean that you will be kept in session practically for one-half of this year since you will have to convene again in October to canvass the returns of the plebiscite. However, due regard for the welfare of our people and other obligations during the present world crisis impose upon us a solemn duty that we dare not shirk.

I think the National Assembly should meet the situation with proper consideration of the necessities of the case. Whatever emergency powers are granted the President should not extend beyond the end of the next regular session. By that time we should be in a position to know the real exigencies of the situation and it will then be possible for the National Assembly to approve adequate legislation. Should the emergency be found still subsisting, it may merely continue the temporary measures adopted at this session or else allow them to lapse if the emergency should no longer exist.

It has been shown in practice that the Eight-Hour Labor Law is defective in many ways. The effects of the war which are being felt here make the revision of this law urgent and imperative. I recommend that you take up this question at this session.

In view of the inevitable reduction in our customs revenues because of the European War and the hostilities in China, the amendment of the Tax Code as recommended in detail in my message to you on this matter during your last session is of the utmost importance. I am advised by the Department of Finance that unless the sales tax as provided in the Tax Code is modified there will be a decrease of several million pesos from this source. It is also necessary to clarify certain provisions of the Tax Code and to correct some inequalities. I earnestly commend these proposed changes to your careful consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippine

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Necessity of Immediate Enactment of Four Bills, September 28, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
NECESSITY OF IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF FOUR BILLS

[September 28, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration at this special session the bills enumerated in the attached certified list.

For the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the said bills.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

LIST OF BILLS CERTIFIED FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT

1. *Bill No. 1158.*—An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred forty, entitled “An Act appropriating the sum of five million fifty thousand pesos for elementary school buildings.”
2. *Bill No. 1159.*—An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Three hundred and thirty, entitled “An Act appropriating ninety-six million three hundred fifty-one thousand and three hundred pesos for Public Works.”
3. *Bill No. 1160.*—An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-nine, entitled “An Act appropriating eight million one hundred eighty thousand pesos for Public Works.”
4. *Bill No. 1215.*—An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Sixty-seven, entitled “An Act making appropriations for Public Works,” as amended.

Certified correct:

JORGE B. VARGAS
Secretary to the President

September 28, 1939.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Increase of Judges of First Instance,
September 29, 1939**

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
INCREASE OF JUDGES OF FIRST INSTANCE

[September 29, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I am inviting your attention to the need of expediting the disposition of cadastral and land registration cases now pending in the various Courts of First Instance in the Philippines. As of March 31, 1939, there were 276,042 uncontested cadastral lots and 46,308 contested lots pending hearing in said courts. At the rate these cases are being disposed of by the courts of first instance as at present organized and constituted and considering that new-cases are filed as cadastral surveys are completed, the congestion in the dockets of our courts insofar as cadastral and land registration cases are concerned cannot be relieved unless the number of judges of first instance is increased. The early determination of conflicts as to the ownership of lands will remove a source of social unrest in this country and thus help in the preservation and maintenance of peace and order. But what is more important, our plan to develop Mindanao will be retarded if immediate action is not taken to facilitate the adjudication of titles to the land in that vast territory.

In the public interest, therefore, I recommend the creation of fifteen positions of judges of first instance to take cognizance exclusively of cadastral and land registration cases and of such other questions as may arise under the provisions of the Cadastral Act and the Land Registration Act.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, section 12, Article VI of the Constitution of the Philippines, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation for the purpose.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Approval of Bill No. 1158, October 27, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 1158—AMENDING THE ACT
APPROPRIATING P5,050,000 FOR ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

[October 27, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 1158, entitled “An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Two hundred Forty, entitled ‘An Act appropriating the sum of five million fifty thousand pesos for elementary school buildings’,” with the exception of the following item, the original appropriation for which has been released:

SECTION 1:	Cagayan
------------	---------

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 505.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on Approval of Bill No. 1159, October 27, 1939

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON
**APPROVAL OF BILL No. 1159—AMENDING COMMONWEALTH
ACT NO. 330 APPROPRIATING P96,351, 300
FOR PUBLIC WORKS**

[October 27, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 1159, entitled “An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Three hundred and thirty, entitled ‘An Act appropriating ninety-six million three hundred fifty-one thousand and three hundred pesos for Public-Works’.” with the exception of the following items, the original appropriations for which have been released, partly expended or have balances insufficient for the purposes of the proposed amendments:

Section 1:

Antique	Item No. 48
Cebu	Item No. 125
Manila	Item No. 17
Marinduque	Items Nos. 59 and 60
Occidental Negros	Item No. 54
Palawan	Item No. 1
Pangasinan	Items Nos. 24, 30, 64, 64(a) and 145

Section 2: Items Nos. 33 and 33(a).

Section 4 is hereby also disapproved.

This bill now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 506.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon to the Second National Assembly on appropriation of additional funds for opening of extension classes in the Philippines, November 10, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

TO THE

SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**APPROPRIATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR OPENING OF
EXTENSION CLASSES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

[November 10, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I was very reluctant to accede to the request of your Speaker that I recommend to the National Assembly at this special session the appropriation of additional funds needed for the opening of 3,599 extension classes which the Secretary of Public Instruction had certified as fulfilling the requirements of the Department as to housing and school sites. The total amount required for the opening of these extension classes is P3,371,150. Inasmuch as out of the amount of P2,550,000 appropriated in your last session for extension classes, the sum of P2,000,000 is available for this purpose, you will only have to appropriate at this time, the sum of P1,371,150 to permit the opening of all such extension classes.

My unwillingness to recommend that this additional appropriation be made was due not so much to the fact that from the current income of the Government there are practically no funds left to draw from, as to the circumstance that the report of the Director of Education shows that there are no professionally trained teachers who can be secured for most of these extension classes. As a matter of fact, because of the rapid increase in the number of schools since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, the Bureau of Education had to employ as teachers only high school graduates and a few who had not even finished the high school course. According to the same report, more than 64 per cent of the teachers employed in 1938-1939 to teach in the extension classes supported by national funds and 70 per cent of those employed to teach extension classes supported by local funds, were merely high school graduates. Explaining the situation further, the Director of Education told me in a conference I had with him and the Secretary of Public Instruction a few days ago, that owing to the necessity of having to employ persons of lower professional and academic qualifications to meet the demand for teachers, the standard of our public schools has gone down.

Under the circumstances, I felt that such a situation should not be allowed to continue, much less to get worse, by further increasing the number of nonprofessionally trained teachers. Having found, however, that for the last two years the Department of Public Instruction, in its efforts to obtain the coöperation of local governments and communities in the acquisition of school sites and the construction of school buildings, has created the impression that whenever a given community could provide a school site and build a schoolhouse from local funds or local contributions, the Government would provide the funds for the opening of new classes; and furthermore, since I am informed that section 1 of Act No. 381, approved August 23, 1938, has been construed by the people as committing the National Government to open new classes from Grade I to Grade IV whenever sites for primary schools have been provided by the local community, I felt that the National Government could not at this time decline to

appropriate the funds necessary for the opening and maintenance of those extension classes for which sites and school buildings have been provided by the people or the government of each locality. I am, therefore, recommending the appropriation of P1, 371, 150 which I propose to make available from forced savings in the appropriations for the various departments of the Government.

While in view of the reasons above stated I have felt it my duty to recommend to you an additional appropriation to permit the opening of extension classes in order that the National Government may carry out the policy heretofore adopted by the Department of Public Instruction and, impliedly at least, approved by Act No. 381 of the National Assembly, I desire to give public notice that hereafter I shall not recommend the appropriation of funds for extension classes even though the people of the locality may acquire sites and provide school buildings for the purpose, unless the consent of the Bureau of Education has been secured prior to the acquisition of the school sites or the construction of the school buildings. I can not permit the continuance of the policy heretofore followed of employing nonprofessionally trained teachers. Instead of allowing the standard of our public schools to go down, it should be our aim to raise it, and I shall demand strict responsibility from the Department of Public Instruction if in the future persons who are not fully competent to do the work are employed as teachers. I think it is unfair to the children themselves and practically a waste of public funds to open new schools without a properly trained personnel to teach. The Director of Education rightly states in his annual report for 1938 that "one of the duties of the Bureau of Education is to protect the public from incompetent teaching in the public schools."

Although I am asking you to vote the funds necessary for the opening of the extension classes which have met the requirements of the Department of Public Instruction. I have nevertheless instructed the Department that, should these funds be appropriated, while it may continue appointing high school graduates for these new classes, in no case may it appoint anyone who has not completed the high school course. Moreover, the superintendent must confer personally with the candidates for school teachers who are only high school graduates, before they are given appointment, so that he may satisfy himself that the appointees, even if lacking in professional attainments, are possessed of those qualities of character, personality and teaching ability, which give promise of satisfactory service and improvement. I have further instructed the Department of Public Instruction that special attention be given to these teachers so that during vacation or in their spare time they may acquire the knowledge and skill necessary to bring them up to the requirements of the Bureau of Education for primary school teachers.

In closing, I desire to invite the attention of the National Assembly to the fact that during the last three years under the Government of the Commonwealth, there has been a greater increase in the number of schools than in any previous ten-year period. The figures of the Bureau of Education reveal that 11,836 new teachers have been appointed since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, and with the new teachers who are to be appointed for the proposed opening of the extension classes, a total of 15,835 teachers will have been added to the number existing prior to November 15, 1935. We have reached a point where the opening of new classes cannot continue, even if funds were available, without serious deterioration of the whole system of public instruction. Teachers cannot be made in twenty-four hours, and our next step should be to train more teachers. This might require the opening of more normal schools or the granting of additional facilities to permit an increase in enrollment in the ones that are now in operation. This is a matter that I propose to lay before you at your next regular session.

In pursuance of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation to carry out the above recommendations.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Quezon on the approval of the Philippine Economic Adjustment Act

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On the approval of the Philippines Economic Adjustment Act**

[Released on November 13, 1939]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

I take pleasure in informing you that the President of the United States has, pursuant to subsection 18 of section 1 of the Ordinance appended to the Constitution, approved the amendments to subsection 5 of section 1, and to section 3 of the aforesaid Ordinance, incorporating in the Ordinance to our Constitution the provisions of Public Act No. 300 of the Congress of the United States, approved August 7, 1939, commonly known as the Philippine Economic Adjustment Act. Under the provisions of section 7 of the aforesaid Act, the amendments to section 6 of Public Act No. 127 of the Congress of the United States, approved March 24, 1934, will not go into effect until after the President of the United States has certified that the Philippine Government has enacted, subsequent to the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution above indicated, the necessary legislation imposing the export taxes provided for in said Act. It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon the benefits which the Philippines will derive from the enforcement of the provisions of the Economic Adjustment Act. Official cognizance of these benefits has already been taken, when you approved Resolution No. 39 proposing the incorporation of the provisions of the aforesaid Act in the Ordinance appended to our Constitution and the people of the Philippines, in the plebiscite specially called for the purpose, ratified your action in the premises. In view thereof, I recommend consideration by the National Assembly in its current special session of the necessary legislation to this end.

I, likewise, recommend the consideration by you of the necessary legislation to provide for the allocation of the quotas which, under the provisions of the Philippine Economic Adjustment Act, are assigned to the Philippines. The manner of the allocation of such quotas is defined and fixed in the Act, but the office which will take charge of such allocation is not determined therein. It is essential that such an office be organized at an early date because the quota provisions of the Act of Congress of August 7, 1939 will take effect on January 1, 1940.

In pursuance of the provisions of Article VI, section 12, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of legislation to carry out the above recommendations.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Quezon on Improvement and Stabilization of the Abaca Industry, November 25, 1939

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**IMPROVEMENT AND STABILIZATION OF THE
ABACA INDUSTRY**

[Sent to Mr. Pedro Sabido, manager of the National Abacá and Other Filler Corporation, on the occasion of the conference of the abacá producers, at Legaspi, Albay, on November 25, 1939.]

The chairman of the board and manager of the National Abacá and Other Fiber Corporation, Mr. Sabido, informed me that on November 26 there would be a meeting of all abaca producers of the Bicol region in the provincial government building of Albay, convoked by the management of the corporation to discuss, among other things, the terms and conditions of the contract governing the relations between the corporation and the abaca producers.

I have always been interested in the improvement and stabilization of the abaca industry. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate that interest and also transmit the interesting news that the National Abaca and Other Fiber Corporation, which was created by Commonwealth Act No. 332, is duly organized. I have just authorized the release of P2,550,000, which constitutes the initial payment of the sum of P10,250,000 subscribed by the Commonwealth Government.

I expect that the precarious situation of the Filipino abaca producer will be alleviated with the organization of the abacá corporation. The corporation was not organized for purposes of profit. Its principal objective is to help the abacá producer and I shall consider its aim realized should the producer, with its intervention, be able to obtain a reasonable and just compensation out of his investment and energy to give his family a decent and happy life without loss of money to the corporation.

I placed at the head of the corporation the man whom I consider, under the present circumstances, to be the best prepared to assume the great responsibility which the firm involves. Nothing can be gained, however, without your loyal, sincere and honest coöperation. Do not entertain any fear or suspicion. The corporation was organized to render you a service, not to exploit you.

It is necessary to have faith in it and in the men who are managing it. You should organize yourselves as soon as possible on the basis of common interest, which is the improvement of the abacá industry and elimination of undue manipulations of economic laws so that you may obtain from your product the price to which you are entitled in accordance with quotations of the market abroad.

Abacá is one of the basic industries of economy of the country. I wish to assure you that the Government will not spare all the support necessary to place it on a stable and beneficial basis for the producer.

I wish you all success and good luck.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Manuel L. Quezon, Sixth State of the Nation Address, January 22, 1940

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On the The State of the Nation**

[Delivered at the Opening of the Second Session in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, Manila on January 22, 1940]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

You are convened at a time when many countries of the world are in the throes of war. The agonies which the nations involved in the conflict are suffering cannot but touch our hearts deeply. We sympathize with their sad fate and we pray to God that the tragic ordeal may soon come to an end. No nation, however far removed from the struggle, can escape its disturbing effects. Even we are experiencing the inevitable consequences of this war in the way of reduced trade with the warring nations and their neighbors, increased transportation and insurance rates, depressed prices for export commodities, and other intangible effects which result from a stoppage or a drastic limitation of world trade. Withal, we are fortunate that we are at peace and that it is the policy of the United States to stay out of the war. With that policy we are in full accord.

The United States Congress, in its last session, passed a neutrality law defining the obligations of the United States towards the belligerent nations and prescribing, limitations upon commercial intercourse between them and the peoples living under the American flag. The Philippines is bound by that Neutrality Act, and our Government and people are fully cooperating with the United States Government in its strict enforcement. It is our good fortune to have in these very critical times, His Excellency, Francis B. Sayre, as United States High Commissioner to the Philippines. He is a scholar, a diplomat and a statesman. [Applause.] During the last three years he has been engaged in the study and consideration of our problems as Chairman of the United States Inter-Departmental Committee and of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs. No one has labored more than he did in securing the approval by the Congress of the United States of the Economic Adjustment Act. He merits our gratitude for that signal service.

All the requirements prescribed by Congress for the effectiveness of the Economic Adjustment Act have been fulfilled. The Act, therefore, is now in full effect and all the agencies necessary for its enforcement have been set up. The quotas for different products provided in the Act have been allocated. It is my purpose to submit to you at an early date a definite proposal to permit the Government to lay the groundwork for the economic conference that is to be held at least, two years before the establishment of the Philippine Republic.

In your last special session, you approved laws to protect the people against profiteering during these war times, and to insure for the country a steady and sufficient supply of prime necessities and the continued operation of farms and factories. To accomplish the first aim, maximum prices for the most important commodities have been fixed and are being enforced. To attain the second purpose, the National Trading Corporation with a capital stock of P5,000,000 has been organized. A detailed report on these matters will be submitted to the National Assembly as required by law.

Pursuant to the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 453, I have effected a reorganization of the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, and Labor. The National Information Board was abolished as a separate entity and converted into a division of the Department of the Interior. The activities of the various bureaus and offices under the Department of Agriculture and Commerce were properly coordinated, thus avoiding the overlapping of functions. The Bureau of Labor was abolished, and its work distributed among the various divisions of the Department, performing identical functions. The Division of Immigration was reorganized and its personnel increased with funds appropriated under Commonwealth Act No. 501.

We are making progress, however slowly, in our determination to raise the masses of our people to a position of relative ease. But our task is an extremely difficult one. Capital in the Philippines does not as yet seem to fully realize its obligations to labor and to society, and it will be necessary for you to enact after due investigation further labor legislations that will secure for the underpaid laborers higher wages and better living conditions, especially in the mining and sugar industries. [Applause.].

I regret that there are some labor leaders who insist upon resorting to strikes as the proper and best means of obtaining recognition of labor rights. Where, as in the Philippines today, the Government is earnestly endeavoring to help labor in its just claims, strikes are unnecessary and unjustified. Although the right to strike is recognized by law, strikes are, by their nature, a form of coercion, and once coercion is used by one party in a conflict, it provokes retaliation by the other party. Hence, strikes often result in physical violence, sabotage, and public disorder. When such a situation arises, the Government is compelled to intervene, and when the Government intervenes to suppress violence and restore public order, it has to act swiftly under circumstances that often inflict loss or injury upon innocent parties.

Moreover, experience shows that the cost of strikes both to capital and labor in terms of financial losses, physical and moral suffering, and otherwise is enormous. Such loss, directly or indirectly, is shared by the whole community. Strikes should not, therefore, be used except as a last resort, for the settlement of industrial and agrarian disputes or for securing recognition of the rights of labor. Arbitration or adjudication by the Court of Industrial Relations has been found to be less wasteful and more expedient procedure for securing substantial justice. In any event, when a strike is declared, the use of violence or sabotage, by either side, will not be countenanced by the Government.

Our policy to acquire large haciendas with a view to their sale in small parcels to the peasants who work them and to purchase urban land to provide homes for the poor on easy terms is being effectuated. But here again we are met with serious difficulties in some instances, coming either from selfish and greedy landowners or from irresponsible and dishonest agitators. In the Hacienda de Buenavista in Bulacan, for a long time a focus of unrest and disturbances, some of the tenants who have been made to believe that they could become the owners of the land without paying for it, are as yet not fully convinced that they have been deceived, and instead of welcoming the help of the Government, are either refusing to agree to the plan devised for the ultimate transfer to them of their landholdings, or in some other way trying to frustrate the plan. The management of the Hacienda, although carrying out the plan with firm determination, is showing extreme patience, because it is believed that these misguided people will sooner or later realize that we are seeking only their best interests and will then lend their full cooperation to the plan.

The Government has already purchased large parcels of land for homesites in Marikina, Rizal; San Pedro Tunasan, Laguna; and Dinalupihan, Bataan. Steps are being taken to expropriate the homesites in Malabon, Rizal. These purchases comprise lands owned by some corporations where people in large numbers have built their houses. We are trying to free these communities from the grip of absentee landlordism and to help them become owners of their homes, under terms and conditions that they can bear.

It is in the City of Manila where we are confronted with the most serious situation. Here the largest number of industrial workers live. Here, too, unemployment is at its worst. Individuals with no stable occupation but who can find work only occasionally, abound. The result is that in several sections of the city—Intramuros, Tondo, Sampaloc—there are many slums where the poor live under conditions totally unfit for human beings, crowded together in small quarters without sufficient ventilation or sanitary facilities.

In an effort to relieve Manila of a part of its congested population that can conveniently go to live in Quezon City, we have purchased a large parcel of land, known as the Hacienda de Diliman, with an area of about 1,600 hectares. The plan is to offer to government officials, especially the small salaried employees and laborers, for sale or rent, lots where they can build, or have the Government build, their homes. In the subdivision of this land there will be portions which may be acquired by private individuals, both the rich and those of moderate means. There will also be sections set aside for industrial establishments. This project which we have placed under a most capable management, at no cost to the Government, is in process of execution. Roads are being constructed and lots subdivided; model houses are being built and in due time the lots and the houses will be ready for sale. But this project cannot by any means solve the problem of the slums, nor provide decent homes for all the poor living in the City of

Manila and its vicinity. In the first place, Diliman is too far for those laborers who work in or around Intramuros and Tondo. In the second place, if all the people residing in the overcrowded districts were to go to Diliman, there would not be sufficient room for them. From the reclaimed area in the North Fort, fifty hectares or 500,000 square meters will be reserved for the fishermen of Tondo, Pasay, and Baclaran, as well as for laborers in the water-front. But even with this plan, which will be in the course of execution next year, we shall not be able completely to do away with the slums or to have all the residents of this city live under proper sanitary conditions.

We must expropriate more land. Fortunately, there is more than enough unoccupied land within the radius of the city itself and its immediate surroundings that can be used for this purpose. But the prices of these lands have been unjustly boosted by their owners. The increase of population and the public improvements made by the Government are being taken advantage of by these land profiteers to exploit the public. These lands have been held unimproved all these many years. Their owners have valued them for purposes of taxation at incomprehensibly low prices, and now for lands that are assessed at four centavos per square meter, the owners are exacting from the Government or private individuals a price of three, four and even more pesos per square meter. This should not be tolerated.

While it is our purpose to maintain inviolate the right, of private property, we must not pay more than what is just compensation therefore, taking into consideration the value at which the property has been assessed upon the owner's own declaration or with his consent. I recommend, therefore, that the Assessment Law be amended by providing that whenever an assessment is made for the purpose of imposing the real property tax and the same is not protested by the owner thereof, within a specified period after receiving notice of the assessment, said owner will be deemed to have agreed and accepted the valuation as the just and fair value of his property, and that, in case of expropriation proceedings by the Government or its instrumentalities, the assessment shall be taken as prima facie evidence of the value of the property. I likewise desire to submit to your consideration the need of imposing special assessment tax upon real property that have greatly appreciated in value as a result of the construction by the National Government of roads or other public improvements. The owners of such properties have no right to enjoy the extraordinary rise in value or the increase in the income, without contributing proportionately to the cost of said improvements.

There are many cases involving the ejectment of poor people who have built small houses on unimproved lands with the consent of the owners thereof. Because of the construction of public improvements, the value of these lands has risen suddenly and the owners are demanding prices which are far beyond the ability of their tenants to pay. It is cruel to permit the ejection of these poor people and to have their houses destroyed, thus leaving them without shelter. The National Assembly should consider the advisability of amending the existing law regulating ejectment proceedings so as to protect such tenants by prohibiting their ejectment until the Government has had opportunity to take care of them.

Unemployment continues to be one of the main problems of the Government, and that problem, in all likelihood, will confront us for some time to come. For the purpose of assisting the Secretary of Labor in the study of this matter, I have created an Advisory Board on Unemployment; and, as an aid to the solution of the problem, or at least to prevent its aggravation, I recommend the enactment of immigration laws that will place limitations upon foreign immigration thus protecting Filipino labor from alien competition. We should, however, do away with the existing discrimination against Orientals, it being unjust and unfair to close our door to races which are akin to ours.

The fiscal operations of the Government during the past year have been satisfactory. Revenues have exceeded ordinary expenditures during the last fiscal period by P6,928,977.45, although this excess and a part of the accumulated surplus were used to cover extraordinary or nonrecurring expenses amounting to P23,927,909.43. Actual collections exceeded budgetary estimates in the amount of P5,323,573.66. The condition of the excise tax fund will be reported to you in a separate message. The public debt has been reduced as required by law and is now only P79,582,982.84, as compared to P95,076,798.27 in 1935. This public debt will be more than amply covered from the proceeds of export taxes provided in the Independence Act, accruing before 1946. In addition to this public debt, however, the Manila Railroad Company has an outstanding obligation in the amount of P26,472,000 for which no sinking funds are being provided. In order to protect the credit of one of our most important enterprises, the Government will have to assume the payment of this debt maturing in 1956. I recommend that the National Assembly consider a plan establishing a sinking fund for these obligations from the proceeds of the excise tax in the event the Manila Railroad Company is unable to provide therefore.

The business corporations of the Government have been operated efficiently and in the public interest. While the National Food Products Corporation is still operating at a loss, the Cebu Portland Cement Company, the Insular Refining Company, the Manila Port Terminal, and the National Bank have all made substantial profits during the past year. The National Development Company has also made a profit from its own operations as well as from its operations as a holding company.

The Agricultural and Industrial Bank has been organized and is now in operation. The main purpose of this bank is to help agriculture and industry, chiefly in the establishment of new industries, the production of new crops and the extension of cultivation and diversification of products in farm areas.

The National Power Corporation has decided to undertake the development of the Caliraya water project. The construction of this project is under way. The bonds issued by the corporation to finance this enterprise were oversubscribed.

The exploration of our oil resources is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible and within a few months the geological survey will be completed. As soon as the result of the survey is available, it will be time to decide whether drilling operations should be undertaken by the Government or by responsible private companies.

The Government has been giving impetus to the organization of cooperatives for consumers, producers, and small merchants to eliminate middlemen and needless entrepreneurs. This form of economic organization has been successful in other countries, and I can see no reason why it will not meet with the same success in the Philippines. It will probably take time to educate our people on the value of cooperative effort, with the discipline and intelligent collaboration required by that method of economic endeavor. We have to contend with the apathy prevailing in certain groups as well as with old practices and traditions which are both uneconomic and otherwise undesirable. But I have faith that these difficulties will be overcome. The successful operation of these cooperatives will aid in a great measure in the solution of our economic problems and in the ultimate stabilization of our national economy.

Retailers' cooperatives are being organized in Manila and in the provinces. The Buenavista Cooperative is in operation. The shoemakers of Marikina and neighboring municipalities have likewise been organized into a cooperative association to permit them to own and operate the industry themselves. It is my opinion that the same thing might be done with regard to hat-makers. The Hemp Corporation is undertaking the organization of cooperatives among hemp producers. The same thing will be done with respect to coconut producers.

The coconut industry has long been suffering from depressed prices. This is partly due to inefficient methods of curing copra, lack of credit facilities, and faulty system of marketing. It is also attributable to the failure to utilize the by-products of the coconut. In view of the authorization granted in the Economic Adjustment Act, permitting the use of this excise tax on coconut oil for the purpose of improving the curing of copra and the granting of crop loans to coconut producers, I recommend that the National Assembly pass a law allowing the organization of a corporation for these purposes. [Applause.]

The tobacco industry is going through a most critical period; both in the factories and in the fields. Prices for leaf tobacco are even now not sufficient to insure reasonable returns to farmers, and with the gradual loss of foreign markets, the situation will aggravate. Cigar makers are suffering from low wages, partly because we have not been able to find enough markets for our high-priced cigars.

The Government is undertaking a serious study looking to a solution of the problems confronting this industry, and I recommend that you consider the advisability of authorizing the creation of a tobacco corporation that will provide credit to farmers, aid in the proper curing of leaf tobacco, improve the quality of tobacco and cigars, and stimulate the production of cigarette tobacco. This corporation, when organized, could take over the duties assigned to the Tobacco Board in the investment and disposition of the funds collected from inspection fees. The Warehousing Corporation has under construction eleven warehouses for rice, copra, hemp, and tobacco, and others are being planned. The purpose of these warehouses is to provide storing facilities for producers, meantime permitting them to obtain credit on the security of their crops.

The Koronadal land settlement project in Mindanao has been started. There are now approximately 2,000 men in that territory. More are going at the rate of 250 every month. An irrigation system has been built and experiments have been conducted covering different crops. The results thus far have been most encouraging, and the program for this year is to place, under cultivation in that area, no less than 3,009 hectares. Everything is being done to safeguard the health and well-being of the settlers.

I wish to invite attention to the economic adjustment projects recommended in the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs. Some of these projects are in process of execution; others are still in an experimental stage or under study. In order to properly carry out the plan to promote new crops and greater diversification of products, it is necessary, as recommended by the Joint Preparatory Committee, that we establish, as soon as possible, adequate agricultural, experimental and demonstration stations. The existing stations, maintained entirely with funds contributed by provinces and municipalities, are inadequate. It is not possible to conduct experiments in so many stations which are insufficiently financed. Moreover, the necessary trained men for the operations of these stations are not available. I recommend that the National Government assume full responsibility of establishing and operating experimental and demonstration stations in carefully selected places in order that the experiments and demonstrations may be conducted on a more scientific and systematic basis.

Closely allied with the problem of economic adjustment is the question of scientific research. I desire to reiterate my recommendation in a previous message to the National Assembly to consolidate all the agencies of the Government engaged in scientific research into one scientific research institute, using the Bureau of Science as a nucleus for the purpose. The expenses for its operation may be covered with the funds appropriated for the Bureau of Science and the other agencies of the Government dealing in research. This project has been strongly recommended both by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and by the National Economic Council in view of the report submitted by Dr. Raymond Bacon who was employed by the Government to study this matter.

It is necessary to expand the activities of the Bureau of Commerce to enable it to cope with the increasing demands of our growing trade. Division for the promotion of exports and for the stimulation of local trade should be organized in that bureau. To protect the rights of inventors and manufacturers, a patent office should be established.

One of the most important but neglected industries is our fishing industry. To enable the Government effectively to promote this industry and to exercise the necessary supervision and control over the same, I propose the conversion of the present Fish and Game Administration Division into a bureau under the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

It is hardly necessary to emphasize the importance of organizing an office to collect and compile statistical data for the use of the Government and the public. The Census Commission, after it has completed its work, should be converted into a permanent bureau to render that service.

Many public improvements authorized by the National Assembly were accomplished during the year that has just ended. First-class roads were increased by 208 kilometers, second-class roads by 878 kilometers, and third-class roads by 854 kilometers, thus making a total of 21,166.1 kilometers for all classes of roads, of which 10,310.4 are national roads and 10,805.7 provincial roads. Many public buildings were erected, including 386 school houses.

Our system of transportation has been greatly improved and extended. The railroad to the Bicol provinces has been completed and opened to traffic. Many bridges and port facilities have been built, and new boats have been added to the coastwise and interisland shipping. The number of ships under Philippine registry engaged in overseas trade has increased, and three new ocean-going steamers are now in the service. This fact should be a source of satisfaction and benefit for our country, not only because it will permit the carrying of the Filipino flag to distant lands, but also because it will help in insuring sufficient bottoms to carry our exports to foreign markets, particularly during the present emergency. The Government, however, is not contemplating the acquisition or operation at least during the next few years, of ocean-going steamers.

The Department of National Defense, created by Commonwealth Act No. 432, was organized, effective November 1, 1939. This new department has executive supervision over the Philippine Army, the Bureau of Aeronautics, the

Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Philippine Nautical School and over the establishment and operation of all radio stations other than those maintained by the Bureau of Posts. As the appropriation used by this new Department for the current fiscal year was taken from the forced savings in salaries and wages and sundry expenses of bureaus and offices under the Office of the President, it is recommended that adequate appropriation be provided for this Department for the coming fiscal year.

There are at present 363 officers and 3,735 men in the regular army and 4,829 officers and 104,412 men in the reserve. This shows that the youth of the land have responded patriotically to the call of duty and indicates how much has been accomplished in the execution of the National Defense Program.

Substantial progress is being made in public sanitation and in providing the poor with medical service. But there are still a number of provinces that do not count with proper hospital facilities. With the aid of the National Government, a more generalized program of hospital construction is being gradually carried out.

More funds should be appropriated for the care and protection of the under-privileged—the aged and infirm, the dependent and the destitute, as well as the neglected and the delinquent, the physically and the mentally handicapped children.

The extension of opportunities for public education to all children of school age continues to be one of the major problems of the Government. Despite the opening of 3,600 extension classes and the construction of new buildings, there are still many children of school age out of school. The difficulty of the problem lies not so much in the shortage of funds as in the insufficiency of professionally-trained teachers. I have appointed a Joint Educational Survey Committee for the purpose of studying and recommending a solution for the recurring school crisis.

Greater importance is being given to character and civic education and the fostering of patriotism among the children and the youth. For this purpose, a code of citizenship and ethics has been promulgated and courses of study on character and civic education are being revised.

There is a growing popular response to the work of the Office of Adult Education as shown by the fact that there are now over 4,000 schools for adult citizens.

The survey conducted by the Board of Regents with the advice of two outstanding educators from the United States on the needs and problems of the University of the Philippines has been completed, and many of the recommendations are being put into effect. The transfer of the institution to the new site in Quezon City will proceed as rapidly as circumstances will permit.

In order to meet the need of our industries for technological service, it is advisable that we increase the number of government scholarships abroad. From the appropriation at our disposal, we are able to grant only twenty scholarships every year. The better to carry out our program of economic development, this number should be increased.

For the first time in our judicial history the Supreme Court has brought its docket up to date, while the Court of Appeals is fast moving to clear its own calendar of cases. The Supreme Court has not only decided many important questions but also enunciated constitutional doctrines that have far-reaching effect. In addition to this noteworthy accomplishment, the Court has recently promulgated the Rules of Court, which constitutes a revision of our procedural laws designed to expedite litigation and to render less expensive but more efficient the administration of justice.

As a consequence of the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 177, carrying out the Constitutional mandate to extend the merit system to all branches and subdivisions of the Government, the selection of employees, not only in the national but also in the local governments, has been based on the merit system and practically all government employees are new in the classified civil service. All positions in the Government have been classified and salaries standardized as required by the Salary Law.

The volume of work in the Office of our Resident Commissioner at Washington is continually increasing as a result of the supervision of that Office of the various interests and activities of the Commonwealth Government in the United States. Whereas in the past the work of the Resident Commissioner was limited to his congressional duties, it has become necessary since the establishment of the Commonwealth to entrust him with other duties as the representative of our Government in America. He has to supervise the work of the insular purchasing agent and the tobacco agent, take charge of matters relative to government pensionados, disseminate accurate information about the Philippines, promote Philippine trade, and look after the interests of Filipinos residing in the United States and territories. It is recommended that the appropriation for the Office of the Resident Commissioner be increased sufficiently to enable it to discharge efficiently these new duties and responsibilities.

The provinces, cities, and municipalities have maintained a sound financial position. The revenue laws recently passed by the National Assembly will increase their income by approximately P10,000,000 which will be twice as much as they used to receive from the cedula tax. The municipalities, however, are meeting serious difficulties in balancing their school budget. The total estimated deficit of municipalities for current expenditures in the school fund is around P500,000. This deficit could be met by the repeal of the provision of the new Real Property Assessment Law reducing to 50 per cent the valuation of coconut, hemp and other similar improvements. There is no justification for such a provision, considering that there is now being undertaken a revision of property values which is the best means for a proper assessment. This conclusion becomes more evident when it is considered that some provinces have only recently reduced the assessment of such improvements adjusting it to present conditions, as in the case of the Provinces of Tayabas and Laguna. I urgently recommend that the National Assembly take early action repealing that provision.

On September 15, 1939, the National Assembly adopted a resolution proposing important amendments to the Constitution. I refer to the amendments establishing a bicameral legislature, changing the tenure of office of the President and the Vice-President, creating an independent Commission on Elections, and fixing a compensation for Senators and Representatives higher than that now received by the members of the National Assembly. By Commonwealth Act No. 492, it is provided that these amendments shall be submitted to the people for their ratification at the next general election for local officials. After hearing the views of provincial and municipal officials and the members of the Council of State, as well as other persons who have no partisan interest, I deem it my duty to recommend that the law be amended so as to authorize the holding of a plebiscite on these amendments on a date different from that fixed for the election of provincial and municipal officials. While this may entail more expenses for the Government, I believe that the change is imperative from the standpoint of public interest.

The proposed constitutional amendments are in effect a revision of the present Constitution, and the resolution proposing the same clearly contemplates that they should be submitted to the people in an integrated form. The amendments so affect the entire document and in this sense are so interrelated as to preclude any manner of having them voted upon separately or severally.

The importance of these amendments requires that they be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection squarely and without the introduction of extraneous and irrelevant issues, and this would be impossible if the plebiscite were held on the same date as that set for the next regular election of local officers. The proposed amendments affect only the national Government and should be acted upon by the voters independently of local political interests or considerations.

The conquest and subjugation of formerly independent nations, the invasion by strong powers of insufficiently defended territories, the not infrequent disregard of international covenants and laws have of late caused great anxiety in the minds of many people both in the United States and in the Philippines, and not a few of them are raising the question whether it is the part of wisdom to carry out the plan already agreed upon of establishing the Philippine Republic in 1946.

No one can feel more keenly than I do the responsibility for the future of our people. The sacred duty of leading our Government through these first years of preparation for an independent national existence has fallen to my lot, and I have tried to discover by every means at my disposal if there be any compelling reason why the plan as decreed by the Congress of the United States and accepted by us should not be put through. I am of the opinion that the

international situation has not developed to a point where anyone can predict what the fate of small nations will be in the years to come.

In the discussion of a possible change in the program of independence embodied in the Independence Act, it is important to bear in mind the following considerations:

First. That the Government of the United States will not consider favorably any proposal merely to postpone the granting of independence beyond 1946, meanwhile continuing the present political and economic set-up in the relations between America and the Philippines.

Second. That if the Filipino people are unwilling or afraid to assume the responsibilities of independent nationhood by 1946, their only alternative is to petition Congress to declare the Philippines permanently as American territory.

Third. That America will not assume the obligation to protect the independence and territorial integrity of the Philippines against foreign aggression.

In the face of these considerations, the question for us to decide is whether because of the uncertainty of the future of small nations, we should abandon the idea of becoming independent.

I am unalterably opposed to the prolongation of the present political set-up beyond 1946 [Applause], because I believe that it is not conducive to our best interests. On the other hand, we cannot consider permanent political relationship with America except on the basis that the Philippines would at least have full and complete power over immigration, imports, exports, currency and related financial subjects, as well as the right to conclude commercial treaties with other nations, without being subjected to the supervision and control of the United States. [Applause.] This, I am quite certain, is not feasible, considering the present state of public opinion in America.

It would be utopian to believe confidently that the Philippines would not be exposed to foreign aggression, once we cease to be under the protection of the American flag. But, if we want to have the untrammelled right to govern ourselves as we think best for our own welfare, we must assume the responsibilities that go hand in hand with that right. [Applause.] That means that we shall have to depend upon ourselves and take our chance exactly as every independent nation had to do.

We hope for the best. We shall promote friendly relations with other nations and be mindful of their rights. We shall endeavor to protect and defend our national integrity and independence to the limit of our means. We know not what the future has in store for us, but we have faith in a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who alone holds our fate. [Applause.] We cannot falter in the attainment of our long-cherished Ideal. We must secure a place, however modest, in the concert of free nations. [Applause.]

Manuel L. Quezon, Seventh State of the Nation Address, January 31, 1941

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Second National Assembly
On the State of the Nation**

[Delivered at the Opening of the Third Session in the Assembly Hall, Legislative Building, Manila on January 31, 1941]

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

This session of the Second National Assembly is of unusual significance. It is not only held at a time when momentous events are vitally affecting the destiny of nations, but it marks the culmination of a legislative epoch which commenced with the inauguration of the Commonwealth. During these five years constructive measures were passed by the National Assembly which have enabled the new government to function smoothly and to render invaluable service to the country. But more has been done. You have initiated amendments to our Constitution designed to strengthen the foundation of our democratic institutions and to insure their stability and permanence. And because of such a splendid record the members of the National Assembly have merited the lasting gratitude of our people.

As this body is about to pass into history by reason of the recent amendments to the Constitution creating a new bicameral legislature to be known as the Congress of the Philippines, I desire to express my deep gratification at the manner in which the members of this Assembly have dealt with the many important public questions requiring their attention. I take particular pleasure in acknowledging the valuable cooperation which you have accorded me in the administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth. Fortunately, we are still free from the armed conflicts now raging in several parts of the world, and let us hope that we may be spared the destructive effects of such conflicts. But our fate in this respect is linked with that of the United States. We are placed in that position not only by the very nature of our political relationship with that great nation, but by our common faith in democracy and by every noble impulse that animates our people.

In these times of stress, our national security is naturally the greatest concern of our government, and we are doing all we can in this respect. But it must be admitted that with our own resources alone we are not now in a position to defend ourselves.

The Government of the United States has embarked upon a program of national defense which, we earnestly hope, includes the Philippines; for, under the terms of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, the defense of our country remains primarily the responsibility of the United States. This is as it should be, because so long as we are under the American flag it rests exclusively with the United States, and not with us, to determine whether we shall be at peace or at war. The Filipino people, desirous of cooperating with the United States in the execution of this defense program, are ready to bear their full share of that responsibility. To this end, I have assured the Government of the United States, in behalf of the Commonwealth, that the entire Philippines—its man power and material resources—are at the disposal of the United States in the present emergency.

In my eagerness to expedite the organization of our national defense in cooperation with the United States and in the absence of available funds in the public treasury for that purpose, I have made representations to the Washington authorities requesting that the funds, declared by the Congress of the United States to be payable to the Philippine Commonwealth from the sugar excise tax collections and from profits derived from the devaluation of the American dollar, be appropriated to be spent exclusively for our national defense under the direction of the United States. I have assurances that this matter is being given serious consideration.

As you already know, the people of the United States have reelected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for another term of four years. This outcome of the presidential election has brought joy to the people of the Philippines because the Filipino people are confident that the United States will pursue a policy which will insure for that country and for ours the continued enjoyment of peace under a regime of liberty and democracy. I wish, on this solemn occasion, to reiterate our loyalty to America and our unswerving faith in the leadership of her great President.

The constitutional amendments initiated by this body and ratified by our people, which have for their object the broadening of the democratic base of our government, have received the unqualified approval of the President of the United States. The sympathetic consideration given to these amendments by President Roosevelt could not but arouse a deep feeling of gratitude on the part of our people. By the same token, our faith in, and loyalty to, the United States have been strengthened even more.

The approval of the amendments constitutes another recognition of the principle that, in matters purely domestic, the will of our people should prevail. This principle, which we have always maintained, had been gradually accepted by the Government of the United States and fully embodied in the Tydings-McDuffie Act. It is now the basic foundation upon which American-Philippine relations rest.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate your distinguished Speaker upon the successful outcome of his recent mission to the United States. Speaker Yulo has completely justified the confidence of our people in his patriotism and in his ability to perform this most important and delicate task. The unusually warm reception accorded him upon his return shows that the country fully appreciates the value of the work done by him.

Since the establishment of the Commonwealth Government, we have pursued a definite program designed to prepare our country for independence. This program was well under way at the outbreak of hostilities in Europe.

We completed the organization of the Commonwealth Government as contemplated by the Constitution. The new government has been functioning satisfactorily, and its varied activities have been extended in order better to serve the needs of the people.

We have adopted a plan of national defense for an independent Philippines. This plan is being carried out. Preparatory military training has been introduced in all elementary and high schools. In colleges and universities, instruction in military science for the training of reserve officers has been made compulsory. We have today a regular force consisting of 466 officers and 3,666 enlisted men excluding the Constabulary. This force has been organized to undertake the training of the annual levies of trainees and to engage in the study and planning of the most effective employment of our trained man-power in an emergency. Our total reserve force numbers 132,000 men organized into approximately 13 tactical divisions. The army and other national defense activities have been placed under the Department of National Defense, which was organized last year.

Steps have been taken for the promotion and encouragement of civil aviation and the safety of air navigation. The Government has either acquired or constructed airports and landing fields. We have also established a network of aeronautical radio and weather observation stations which has greatly facilitated air travel in this country.

The judicial branch of our government has undergone important changes designed to insure an efficient and speedy administration of justice.

The creation and organization of the Court of Appeals in 1936 relieved the Supreme Court of the task of attending to a large number of appealed cases, thus enabling it to devote more time to the consideration of cases involving important questions of law.

As a result of the work of the Court of Appeals, the determination of appealed cases has been greatly expedited. The dockets of both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals are up-to-date.

In the exercise of its rule-making power and with a view to simplifying court procedure and reducing the cost of litigation, the Supreme Court has adopted new rules for all the courts in the Philippines.

In order to meet the increasing amount of court litigation brought about by the ever—expanding field of the law, the complexity of modern life, and the natural growth of population, the number of judges of first instance and of justices of the peace has been increased.

Our courts have been placed within the reach of the humblest citizen through the establishment of free legal aid services.

The masses of our population are more and more becoming aware that our courts are administering justice to the rich and the poor alike.

There has been a long-felt need of revising and codifying our substantive laws in order to make them conform to the customs, traditions and idiosyncrasies of our people and to adapt them to present day conditions. A Code Committee has been appointed to carry out that important task.

In order to improve the administration of our criminal laws, the provincial fiscal service has been reorganized and the Office of District Attorneys has been created for each of the nine judicial districts, excepting the city of Manila.

With a view to a better coordination of crime-investigation and prosecution, a Division of Investigation was created under the Department of Justice by Commonwealth Act No. 181. This Division is patterned after the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice. Its main duties are to help in the detection and prosecution of crimes and to acquire, collect, classify and preserve criminal identification records.

We have made reforms in our penal administration, the most significant of which have been the introduction of vocational training for our prisoners and the individualization of corrective treatment. A new insular penitentiary has been opened in Muntinlupa, Rizal, and this has afforded the insular prisoners greater opportunity for self-improvement.

The Public Service Commission has been instrumental in maintaining fair and reasonable rates for light, gas, and transportation services in Manila and in the provinces.

In order to regulate the issuance of, and trading in, securities, made necessary by the mining boom of 1935 and 1936, we created the Securities and Exchange Commission. Through its operation, investors are afforded protection in speculative ventures and against fraudulent schemes.

To reduce the evils resulting from the establishment and operation of certain kinds of amusement centers, I have promulgated rules and regulations in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 601.

Social justice has been a major aim of our government during the last five years. To accomplish this objective, we have, among other things, set a minimum wage scale in public works, created the Court of Industrial Relations to settle labor-capital disputes, organized the National Land Settlement Administration to help the poorer classes transfer from congested districts to unoccupied areas, purchased haciendas to be subdivided and resold to the tenants, embarked on housing schemes for workers and low-salaried employees, intensified the campaign against usury, revised the system of taxation so that the tax burden would be borne by those best able to carry it, passed legislations to protect the rights of tenants, appointed officials to defend the poor, encouraged the organization of associations for marketing and purchasing among producers and consumers, and extended aid and credit to small farmers and businessmen.

Noteworthy progress has been made in the opening of settlement projects under the National Land Settlement Administration. Organized less than two years ago, the National Land Settlement Administration has established the

Koronadal Valley Project in Cotabato, where some 14,000 people have settled, and has recently started the Mallig Plains Project in Isabela, covering 66,000 hectares of the Cagayan Valley.

To date, the National Land Settlement Administration has spent about P1,500,000 of the P20,000,000 capital authorized by Commonwealth Act No. 441 from the coconut oil excise tax funds. Of the amount disbursed, about half a million pesos has been given to the settlers as loans. The National Land Settlement Administration expects, within five years, to develop four or five other settlement projects along the broad lines of Koronadal, and to distribute land to about a hundred thousand settlers.

The Rural Progress Administration has been established to assist the landless in acquiring lands and homes of their own. It has already purchased several estates and homesites, among which are: the Bahay Pari Estate in Pampanga, the Marikina Homesite in Rizal, the Tunasan Homesite in Laguna, and the Dinalupihan Homesite in Bataan.

In addition to these haciendas and homesites, the Government has leased the Buenavista Estate in Bulacan. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that whereas before misapprehension and distrust prevailed among the tenants in that Estate, now there is harmony and better understanding. There is evident willingness on the part of these people to pay their rents and to cooperate with the Government in its efforts to ameliorate conditions. As the Estate progresses, it approaches the status of an independent cooperative farm.

To provide suitable homes for our working population, we have organized the People's Homesite Corporation, with an initial capital of P2,000,000, which has taken over Diliman District bordering Manila in order to convert it into a model workers' community. Hundreds of model houses for laborers and low-salaried employees have been constructed.

The eagerness with which the people have responded to the opportunity of acquiring their own houses has been very gratifying, and the People's Homesite Corporation has plans for the construction of more houses.

Besides cash loans, the Government has extended loans in the form of rice to needy tenant farmers. This work of extending credit facilities to tenants and small farmers has been placed under the administration of the Philippine National Bank, and the amount of P1,000,000 has been released for this purpose from the emergency funds.

The organized efforts of the Government to give public assistance to victims of public disasters were exerted as early as 1934 with the creation of the Board of Relief under the provisions of Act No. 4160. To further promote the security of the masses, this Board was reorganized on August 19, 1940, with the creation of the National Social Security Administration. To this new agency have been entrusted wider functions so that, in addition to giving relief to victims of public disasters, it is rendering assistance to the unemployed and studying the whole problem of unemployment in the Philippines.

Since public works projects offer at present the most practicable means of aiding the unemployed, I have issued Executive Order No. 307 requiring that the only criterion for obtaining work in these projects shall be the need of employment and fitness for it and that no regard shall be paid whatsoever to political affiliation or religious creed.

From January 1, 1934, to June 20, 1940, a total of P3,591,008.81 was spent for relief in the forms of food, clothing, medicines, building materials, and seedlings.

The Philippine Rice Share Tenancy Act, enacted in 1933, was not put in operation until 1936, with such amendments as were necessary to hasten the solution of the tenancy conflicts arising out of the division of crops. As a result of the vigilant enforcement of this law, tenancy conflicts have been reduced, and there is growing disposition among landlords and tenants to settle their differences amicably.

Disputes between capital and labor have arisen now and then, but such disputes have been fortunately free from the sharp violence and bitter antagonisms that generally characterize such clashes in other places. We have helped labor

fight for its rights and we have protected these rights against unjust encroachment. This has resulted in mutual respect and understanding between capital and labor, and has contributed to the promotion of social welfare.

The Court of Industrial Relations has been a potent factor in maintaining industrial peace. Its accomplishments are to a large extent identified with the substantial gains of labor, including the fixing of the scale of wages at fairer levels, the reduction of working hours, the recognition of the right of collective bargaining, and the payment for overtime work. These gains have been reflected in improved working and housing conditions, in better sanitary facilities, in better terms of employment, and, in general, in the material, physical and moral well-being of the working classes.

The functioning of the industrial court has shown that the interests of labor and capital are compatible with one another and that- conflicts between them can be adjusted without the necessity of resorting to strikes, lockouts, or other coercive measures.

Peace and order has been maintained. No disturbance of a serious nature has arisen to require drastic action by the authorities. Where municipal police forces proved inadequate to cope with a threatened situation, the constabulary has always been ready to maintain peace and order.

For the first time a general election for local officials was held last December under the direction and Supervision of the Commission on Elections. The efficient and orderly manner in which the election was conducted proved the wisdom of creating such an independent commission.

With the abolition of the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes in 1936, the Office of the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu was created to assist the Secretary of the Interior in the development work in Mindanao, and to look after the interests of the special provinces. In the five specially organized provinces, we have, whenever possible, followed the policy of placing natives in responsible executive positions. Townsites have been established, and sites for agricultural colonies properly located. The construction of roads, waterworks, port works, and other public improvements has been extensively undertaken in Mindanao.

The benefits of sanitation have been extended to all parts of the country. Because of rigid sanitary and quarantine measures, the Philippines has been spared from the ravages of dreaded epidemic diseases, such as cholera, plague, and smallpox, which have been afflicting neighboring countries.

Medical aid has been increased, specially for the poor. Hospital, dispensary and other medical facilities have been substantially increased. Twelve new hospitals and 939 public dispensaries have been organized; and 500 charity clinic physicians and 95 charity clinic dentists have been employed to render free medical and dental services.

Greater stress has been given to safeguarding the health of infants and mothers. While in 1935 we had only 196, we now have 319 puericulture centers.

Measures for the protection of the health of industrial workers have also been adopted and enforced. The campaign against common diseases has been intensified. To reduce tuberculosis incidence, we have established the Quezon Institute. Malaria and other major diseases have also received attention. Seven malaria control units are today in operation.

Besides the leprosarium at Culion, funds have been provided for the establishment and operation of other leprosaria in different parts of the country. Of the new regional leprosaria, the largest, the Central Luzon Leprosarium, has already been opened.

A public health laboratory with modern facilities has been organized. An Institute of Hygiene has been established. The system of medical instruction in the University of the Philippines has been improved and funds for the establishment of postgraduate courses have been made available. The Philippine General Hospital has been

reorganized and enlarged with the addition of several wards, including a unit for the treatment and study of cancer, for which a building is now being constructed.

A separate Department of Health and Welfare has been organized with a view to effecting a better coordination of public health and sanitation, welfare, and related services.

In the last six years, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes has distributed a total of P7,611,230.43 to charitable health and civic institutions and organizations such as the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, the Associated Charities, national and provincial hospitals, puericulture centers, charity clinics, the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the Boy and Girls Scout organizations—and for the maintenance of such activities as malaria control work and the repatriation of Filipinos from the war zones in China and Europe. Besides, it has distributed P939,102.42 to cities and provinces.

In our public schools now numbering 12,000, we have admitted about 800,000 additional pupils, so that today more than 2,000,000 pupils are in attendance. To insure proper support and a more rapid extension of elementary education, the National Government has assumed responsibility for the maintenance and operation of elementary schools. This reform has made possible a more efficient coordination of school finances and the full utilization of the services of teachers, and has offered increased opportunity for elementary education throughout the country.

The curricula have been revised. Character education and citizenship training have been stressed and special efforts made to develop a greater appreciation of Philippine culture. Attention was also focused on vocational education by establishing new vocational schools and by giving vocational courses in academic high schools. Considerable progress in athletics has been made as shown by a general improvement in the physique of our youth.

The needs and problems of the University of the Philippines have been surveyed by a committee of the Board of Regents with the advice of two outstanding educators from the United States. The recommendations of the committee are being considered, and some have been put into effect. The reorganization of the University of the Philippines has been largely carried out. Commonwealth Act No. 442 was enacted directing the transfer of the University of the Philippines to a site outside of the City of Manila. Three buildings are nearing completion and the work on the plans for all the necessary buildings is proceeding as rapidly as circumstances permit.

With the extension in 1936 of government supervision over all private educational institutions issuing diplomas or conferring degrees, as provided in Commonwealth Act No. 180, the quality of instruction in private schools has shown general improvement. The Government has encouraged private initiative in education, but at the same time, it has adopted the necessary safeguards to protect the public interest, and to carry out the educational aims enunciated in the Constitution. Through closer supervision by the Office of Private Education, the number of competent instructors has grown, school libraries have been expanded and laboratory equipment and facilities improved. The various government boards of examiners act as technical advisory committees to the Office of Private Education and cooperate with the various institutions to coordinate government licensing examinations with teaching.

We organized the Institute of National Language to evolve a common language for our people adopting Tagalog as the basis. The Institute has completed a grammar and is now preparing a dictionary. We are gradually introducing the teaching of the national language in the public and private schools.

We have established a system of adult education. During the past four years 6,069 adult schools have been opened with more than 50,000 volunteer citizens helping in the eradication of illiteracy and the teaching of citizenship and the stimulation of vocational competence. Up to December 31, 1940, these schools had an enrolment of 581,307 adults, men and women. Over 2,500,000 copies of publications on adult education have been distributed.

To supplement instruction in the schools, the facilities of public and school libraries have been expanded. The National Library has established branches in different provinces and its facilities have been made available to an increasing number of people. Its Filipiniana collection has been enriched. Recently we acquired the Blumentritt collection on the life and writings of Rizal. Letters of Rizal have been collected and published.

Roads with a combined length of 6,979 kilometers were built which increased the total length of roads to 22,959 kilometers. Particular attention was directed to the opening of new roads and highways in Mindanao to accelerate the economic development and settlement of that region. The important parts of the island are now linked by a network of roads with a total length of 3,878 kilometers, of which 1,811 kilometers were constructed during the Commonwealth period.

The construction of concrete pavements on national roads has been undertaken. We have today 362 kilometers of cement roads. Supplementing our road-building program, the sum of over P7,500,000 was spent for the construction of bridges. We have now 33 new bridges in process of construction costing more than P4,662,000.

Another important phase of our public works program was the construction of 2,362 buildings costing about P11,000,000.

During the last five years there were constructed in the provinces a total of 134 waterworks systems and 492 artesian wells at a total cost of P5,300,000. These water systems and artesian wells are serving some 876,292 people with potable water.

Projects for flood and river control costing P14,586,413 have been carried out in various provinces.

For the maintenance and improvement of our ports and the construction and expansion of port facilities, we have spent about P19,500,000. These improvements have gone far in promoting foreign and inter-island trade.

Impetus has been given to coastwise navigation which constitutes the principal means of communication between the different parts of the archipelago. Nine new steamers, 19 motor ships, and more than 1,000 sailing vessels and motor launches were put in operation. Most of these steamers and motor ships were built specially for tropical use and are provided with comfortable accommodations for all classes of passengers.

The Government has given special attention to the entry of Philippine shipping firms in the ocean-going trade. It has extended credit and other facilities to several Philippine firms which enabled them to acquire ten steamers and motor vessels with a total gross tonnage of 57,236. One of these companies also chartered twelve foreign vessels which, under Filipino management and control, carry a considerable portion of our overseas trade.

With the completion of the Tayabas-Legaspi section of its main Southern Line, the Manila Railroad Company has been enabled to maintain through train operation between Manila and Albay.

To avoid unnecessary duplication of services, the company has entered into joint passenger traffic arrangements with private bus companies so that today practically all important points of Luzon can be reached by the combined train and bus lines. Wherever necessary, the company maintains its own feeder bus service. In order to foster tourist trade and to accommodate its patrons and other travellers, the company has adopted plans for the establishment of a chain of hotels throughout the country. Two new hotels are now in operation: one in Tagaytay City and another in Legaspi, Albay.

The construction of radio stations at strategic and important points has received considerable attention. Eighteen stations have been erected at Ilagan, Isabela; Larap, Camarines Norte; Port Holland and Punta Flecha, Zamboanga; Brooke Point and Binalauan, Taytay, in the province of Palawan, and other places.

No efforts have been spared to protect and promote agriculture and commerce.

We have eliminated locust infestation and reduced destruction by other pests. The introduction of dangerous plant diseases into the country has been checked through a rigid plant quarantine service.

Control of animal diseases through quarantine and vaccination has, likewise, been effected. Since 1938 no case of rinderpest has been registered.

Fishing laws and regulations are more strictly enforced. Various fishery stations have been opened and adequate facilities have been provided, as well as personnel to study the propagation of needed fish varieties.

The survey and subdivision of public lands has been expedited to have lots ready for settlers and to insure the equitable distribution of public lands by preventing the acquisition of big landholdings.

Through an extensive soil and agronomical survey now being undertaken, we shall soon be in a position to determine the physical, chemical and biological properties of our agricultural areas and thus secure the data essential to scientific agricultural planning and land cultivation.

The production of gold and silver has been more than doubled and that of base metals has risen from almost nothing to about one—tenth of the total mineral production in 1940.

To insure a continuous supply of timber and help solve the problems of soil protection, water conservation and flood control, new forest reserves, communal forests and national parks have been established and barren watersheds reforested with economically valuable trees.

The Bureau of Science has successfully undertaken experiments on the utilization of the by-products of some of our industries. As a result of these researches, factories for the manufacture of paints, varnishes, roofing tiles and other industrial products from local raw materials have been established.

The National Research Council has stimulated comprehensive projects of scientific research. As an advisory body, the Council has drawn the attention of both the Government and private enterprises to important activities requiring technical knowledge. It has catalogued our scientific and technical resources for use in any intensive scientific work.

Our farmers have received assistance in the marketing of their products. Through the help of the National Produce Exchange, many producers in the different provinces, mostly small individual farmers and cooperative associations, have been able to dispose of their products without passing through middle-men, thus giving them better returns for their crops.

Activities for the promotion of foreign and domestic trade have been intensified. A new Foreign Trade Division in the Bureau of Commerce has been organized to develop foreign markets and promote the sale of Philippine products abroad. Since 1939 National Foreign Trade Week has been observed annually in order to arouse wider public interest both here and in the United States in Philippine-American trade. A direct cablegraphic price quotation service from New York has made possible the daily publication and broadcasting of price quotations on all important staple products of the Philippines. The Bureau of Commerce has also helped our businessmen in establishing new business connections locally and with foreign countries and in getting useful information.

Filipino participation in the retail trade of the country has increased from between 15 to 20 per cent at the time of the inauguration of the Commonwealth to approximately 37 per cent in 1939. Filipinos now outnumber the merchants of other nationalities in the local retail trade and control a greater number of retail stores.

In its desire to broaden the base of taxation and shift the tax load to those best able to pay, the Government has approved a series of measures, now embodied in the National Internal Revenue Code, to create new sources of income by increasing taxes on inheritance, income, and articles of luxury, and by imposing taxes on amusement and other activities. The code has established a more equitable tax system and provided a more adequate machinery against tax evasion or avoidance. Its adoption has resulted in a substantial increase in revenues, which, however, has been upset by present depressed business conditions. The loss of revenues occasioned by the abolition in 1937 of the cedula tax was more than offset by the new taxes.

The trend in public revenues during the last five years is shown by the following figures. The internal revenue collections rose from P46,971,774.93 in 1935 to P73,354,896.60 in 1937, the year of the mining boom; collections fell to P66,301,810.61 in 1938, but rose again to P69,331,641.20 in 1939, and, despite the beginning of hostilities in

Europe, reached a peak of P74,858,920.31 for the fiscal year 1940, when the Internal Revenue Code went into effect. Customs collections showed a similar trend. Collections rose from P24,477,176.63 in 1935 to P32,125,389.93 in 1937, then declined to P28,529,012.11 in 1938 and to P25,582,985.21 in 1939. Unlike internal revenue collections, however, which rose to a new high in 1940, customs collections for that fiscal year—which amounted only to P27,270,275.90, because of the paralyzation of our trade with some of the warring nations—fell below the 1937 level.

Provincial and municipal finances have been in sound condition. At the end of the fiscal year 1940, provincial governments had an unexpended surplus of P3,127,204.09 and the municipal governments, P1,104,524.04. Various laws such as the new municipal autonomy act, the new assessment law, and the Internal Revenue Code have further strengthened the financial position of the provinces and municipalities and enabled them to meet their obligations more adequately. The change in the supervision over the finances of our local governments, placing provincial, municipal and city treasurers and provincial and city assessors under the Department of Finance, has resulted in a unified collection service and greater efficiency.

In addition to the resources of the Philippine National Bank, we have made available to the public with the creation of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank P25,000,000 which constitutes its initial capital.

A direct result of the combined operation of these banks has been the scaling down of the rate of interest on loans, which has enabled the small farmer and industrialist to secure the needed protection and encouragement to carry on their operations under adverse conditions.

During the last five years there has been a steady increase in the resources of our banks due mainly to the growth of bank deposits which rose to about P30,000,000.

On the inauguration of the Commonwealth, the total indebtedness assumed by the new government from the old regime amounted to P154,364,700 against which a sinking fund reserve of P59,287,901.73 had been accumulated, thereby leaving a net indebtedness of P95,076,798.27. Since the establishment of the Commonwealth up to December 31, 1940, new bonds in the total par amount of P5,392,300 had been issued, but on August 1, 1939, Public Works bonds issued on August 1, 1909, amounting to P3,000,000, were retired, thereby leaving a net issue of P2,392,300. The sinking fund reserve increased from P59,287,901.73 in November, 1935, to P75,980,484.01 at the end of the calendar year 1940. The status of the public debt as of December 31, 1940, was as follows:

Bonds of the National Government (proper)	P128,450,000.00
Collateral Bonds of the National Government, secured by bonds of the Provincial, Municipal and City Gov- ernments	P17,387,000.00
Provincial, Municipal and city Government bonds er direct issue	P 2,920,000.00
Total bonded indebtedness of all classes	P148,757,000.000
Total sinking fund reserve,.....	P75,980,484.01
Net bonded indebtedness of all classes	P 72,776,515.99

The above figures show that during the Commonwealth régime through December, 1940, the gross and net indebtedness of the Government were reduced by P5,607,700 and P22,300,282.28, respectively.

Besides these bonds of the Government proper, there were also sold P6,000,000 worth of bonds of the National Power Corporation created by Commonwealth Act No. 120, the principal and interest of which are guaranteed by the Government.

The Manila Railroad Company has also outstanding bonds amounting to P28,718,000.00. We have taken steps to enable this company to redeem its outstanding bonds upon maturity. For this purpose the National Assembly last year appropriated P7,000,000 from the Coconut Oil Excise Tax Fund. The present program of the Government contemplates further yearly appropriations from this same Fund until the total bonded debt of the Manila Railroad Company is fully covered.

The currency circulation of the Philippines during this period showed an upward tendency from 1935 to 1938, but began to decline thereafter as may be seen from the following figures:

1935 (Average from November 14 to December 31, 1935) P114,648,486.98

1936 (Average) 164,524,168.76

1937 (Average) 181,203,519.52

1938 (Average) 207,465,286.45

1939 (Average) 199,044,925.28

1940 (Average) 181,251,052.08

The decline in circulation began in 1939, when the present war in Europe started. Owing to the marked increase in freight and insurance rates, and to the prevailing low prices of our export commodities, there resulted a scarcity of export bills which are the main source of supply of the dollar balances abroad of local banks. To replenish depletion of said balances and to cover payments for Philippine imports, local banks had to resort to heavy purchases of exchange in Manila and New York. These sales of exchange affected the monetary circulation of the Philippines for the reason that, under the law, currency tendered for the purchase of said exchange had to be retired from circulation.

The legal minimum reserve requirement has been maintained since the establishment of the Commonwealth as shown in the following statement:

Year (December 31)	Total Government Circulation	15 Per cent Minimum of Government Circulation	25 Per cent Maximum of Government Circulation
1935	125,521,489.49	18,828,223.42	31,380,372.37
1936	152,383,173.68	22,857,476.05	38,095,798.42
1937	167,791,600.05	25,168,740.01	41,947,900.01
1938	197,429,811.57	29,614,471.74	49,357,452.89
1939	196,371,784.86	29,455,767.73	49,092,496.22
1940	186,018,426.65	27,902,764.00	46,504,606.66

The Treasury Certificate Fund constitutes the reserve for the redemption at par of all outstanding treasury certificates. This fund is always maintained to the amount of 100 per cent of all treasury certificates issued and outstanding. The fund is constituted exclusively of Philippine silver pesos, half-silver pesos, and of dollar deposits in the United States. The status of this fund for the period covered by the Commonwealth régime to December 31, 1940, was as follows:

Year (Dec. 31) Total Treasury

Certificates Cash Balance

Outstanding of the Fund

1935	_____	P106,369,706.00	P106,369,706.00
1936	_____	132,155,000.00	132,155,000.00
1937	_____	145,333,275.00	145,333,275.00
1938	_____	174,763,462.00	174,763,462.00
1939	_____	173,611,590.00	173,611,590.00
1940	_____	163,143,955.00	163,143,955.00

As early as 1937 efforts were made to readjust our trade relations with the United States through

a revision of the economic provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Act. The Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs was organized and after two years of continuous work, it submitted a comprehensive report which served as the basis for the Philippine Economic Adjustment Act.

To carry out the main recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, steps have been taken to reorganize the national economy by encouraging modern methods of production; by increasing the yield of land through scientific farming; by extending credit facilities to merchants and producers; by lessening the cost of distribution so as to increase the share of the producer; and by providing gainful occupations for farmers who would otherwise remain unproductive during the greater part of the year.

In the development of our agriculture, we have stressed crop diversification and the adjustment of farm production so as to bring about as much as possible self-sufficiency in articles of prime necessity, and the production of raw materials to develop domestic industries and of products that can be marketed abroad under competitive conditions.

The National Assembly passed Commonwealth Act No. 565 providing for the organization of cooperative associations. Pursuant to the provisions of this Act, all government activities of that nature were placed under the National Trading Corporation. Progress has been made in organizing cooperatives among producers, consumers, and small merchants throughout the country, with a view to improving the economic condition of the masses.

Realizing the need of drawing up a program for the readjustment and rehabilitation of the sugar industry, the Government has provided under Commonwealth Act No. 567 a new method of taxing centrifugal Sugar mills and owners of leased sugar lands. The Purpose of this law is to place the industry in a position to maintain itself despite the gradual loss of its preferential position in the American market; to readjust the benefits derived from it by redistributing them more equitably among the elements concerned; and to give laborers employed in the industry a living wage and improved living conditions. Research is being undertaken to increase the yield, reduce the cost of production, and propagate better varieties of sugar cane, and to utilize its by-products.

Since the retroactive imposition of the tax on leased lands would have caused hardships and difficulties to the taxpayers, the operation of this provision of the law was suspended for the 1939-40 agricultural year. Similarly, I decided to waive the imposition of the additional progressive tax on sugar mills for the same agricultural year, as upon investigation it was shown that the exaction of such tax during that period, would be confiscatory and oppressive.

The National Development Company and its subsidiaries have continued developing new industries. The policy laid down for these companies is not to enter into those fields which could well be left to private capital and initiative.

The National Rice and Corn Corporation has been able to keep the price of rice within the reach of consumers, while at the same time stimulating continued production. In carrying out its activities, the National Rice and Corn Corporation has given preferential attention to regions where its services are most needed.

The National Rice and Corn Corporation has carried on research work on longer storage of rice and the utilization of by-products.

The National Warehousing Corporation has been organized. Warehouses have been built for rice, abaca, copra and hemp in different sections of the Philippines, and it is expected that these warehouses will give farmers an opportunity to store their crops while waiting for favorable prices.

The National Footwear Corporation was established to help the footwear industry. This corporation has entered into a financial agreement with the National Footwear Cooperative Association composed of shoemakers of Marikina and other towns of Rizal, as a result of which, shoemakers and laborers now receive higher wages and are supplied with materials at reasonable prices.

The Cebu Portland Cement Company has been operating profitably. This company had completed plans to establish a factory for the manufacture of cement-asbestos roofing to replace galvanized iron. This project, however, has been suspended in view of the offer made by a private company to establish and operate such a factory.

The National Development Company has also helped in the financing of a cellulose factory for the production of cellulose from sugar-cane bagasse. It is believed that the successful operation of this factory will help in the readjustment of the sugar industry besides producing an article which now finds a ready market in many parts of the world.

The Cotton Textile Factory was established in 1939. At the beginning it operated 10,000 spindles and 104 looms. Recently, the factory has been expanded and is now operating 20,000 spindles and 500 looms, together with a finishing plant for bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing work.

The National Food Products Corporation has now under way the establishment of a cannery in Capiz, in addition to the cannery previously set up in Guagua. The Corporation is financing the construction of 5,000 hectares of fishponds under contract with private landowners.

In order to improve interisland shipping and to aid in the establishment of a Philippine ocean—going merchant marine, the National Development Company has financed the construction of a modern coastwise vessel and three ocean-going ships. These vessels are now in the service and the commitments of the operators concerning interest and amortizations of the money invested by the Government have been fully met.

One of the many activities of the National Development Company during the last two years has been to effect the exploration of mineral deposits in the Philippines in cooperation with the Bureau of Mines. With the aid of experienced geologists from the United States some known petroleum-bearing areas have been explored as well as areas containing strategic minerals and other minerals needed for our industrial requirements.

I have authorized the expenditure of P500,000 for the drilling for oil in several places.

The exploration of the Surigao iron deposit has been completed. In relation to this deposit, the National Development Company has had experiments made in the United States and Europe to determine the best process that should be adopted for the most economical utilization of the ore. Exploration of coal deposits has shown that several sections can be commercially operated. The Cebu Portland Cement Company is now exploiting the Uling coal mine in Cebu to its advantage.

The National Development Company is working a coal mine in Malangas in the Province of Zamboanga. With the output of this mine and of the Uling mine, it is believed that all the requirements of the Cebu Portland Cement Company and the Manila Railroad Company would be met eventually.

To increase the local consumption of sugar and to stabilize the market for refined sugar in the Philippines, the Government has acquired the refineries of the Insular Sugar Refining Corporation and the Malabon Sugar Company.

Pursuant to laws passed by the National Assembly, the National Abaca and Other Fibers Corporation, the National Coconut Corporation, and the National Tobacco Corporation have been duly organized and are now in operation.

With the increased appropriations authorized by you last year, the office of the Resident Commissioner in Washington has been reorganized and now counts with a competent staff to handle all matters affecting our interests in the United States. The work of Resident Commissioner Elizalde in reorganizing that office and in developing it to its present efficiency is worthy of commendation.

The consolidation of the auditing and accounting services of the National Government was effected under the General Auditing Office. Whether or not this arrangement is conducive to greater efficiency or economy and should be made permanent, is as yet difficult to determine. Supervision by the General Auditing Office has been extended to public service companies and charitable institutions, and this has redounded to the public good, since through its findings, the Public Service Commission was enabled to scale down public utility rates to fairer levels.

Since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, the constitutional precept requiring a civil service based on merit and fitness has been adhered to. This policy has been extended to embrace almost all positions in the public service.

To better insure uniformity of action, the determination of administrative cases has been placed in the Bureau of Civil Service and the Civil Service Board of Appeals.

Although the work has not yet been completed, considerable headway has been made in the classification and standardization of positions in the civil service in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 402.

To provide some measure of economic security for government employees, the Government Service Insurance System has been established.

The growth of the System may be seen from the increase in the total amount of insurance from P45,919,713 in 1937 to P69,150,418 in 1940. The income for the first year was P2,419,544.06 as against P3,891,574.15 in 1940. The reserves of the System have likewise grown from P2,108,136 in 1937 to P9,851,604 in 1940.

The System was able to declare and distribute among its members dividends in the total amount of P1,152,402, notwithstanding the fact that the reserves have been computed on the most conservative valuation standard known in actuarial science.

The creation of the Budget Commission as authorized by Commonwealth Act No. 5 has been justified by the results attained. The National Government has been able to maintain the principle underlying sound budgetary system that the ordinary operating expenses of the Government must be kept within its current income, except when a grave national emergency or a serious financial difficulty arises.

The Commission has been instrumental in effecting economy in the expenditure of authorized appropriations and special funds, in the coordination of various administrative services, and in avoiding the employment of unnecessary personnel.

The work of the Census Commission, for which the Assembly set aside a total of P3,600,000, is now almost completed. Some 35,000 persons cooperated in the task of compiling the data on the population of the Philippines. According to the result of the census, the population of the country on January 1, 1939, was 16,000,303. All reports

on geography, agriculture, lands, forests, fisheries, mines, manufactures, construction, commerce, transportation, communication, and services are now in process of printing.

Control over immigration has been strengthened by the creation of an independent Bureau of Immigration, and the enactment of appropriate measures regulating the entry of aliens into the country. The port of Manila is now the only unlimited port of entry in the Philippines.

To increase the water supply, the Metropolitan Water District added the Ipo Dam to the Angat System at cost of P800,000, and also the Bicti-Novaliches Siphon Aqueduct costing P467,550. The water service was extended to Las Pinas which necessitated the construction of a 200,000-gallon elevated tank at Paranaque, Rizal, costing P31,000.

The District has completed the construction of a high pressure reservoir which safeguards filtered water from pollution. With the new Santa Ana Steel bridge, the dangers of a subaqueous pipe under the Pasig River have been eliminated.

To improve fire protection in Tondo, Caloocan, and Malabon, a 30-inch feeder main from Pureza street, to Antipolo street, Manila, was laid at a cost of P178,518.

The sewage system has been improved with the initial execution of a ten-year program for the extension of pipes all over the city as far as Pasay, Rizal. The laying of a network of storm drains and the improvement of esteros have been undertaken with an appropriation of P2,000,000.

With the general reduction of the water and sewer rates and the elimination of the service maintenance charge, our rates are now among the lowest in the world.

The rapidly increasing population of the City of Manila-and the highly unsatisfactory conditions in the districts where the laborers live have constituted a problem which for a long time needed attention. To solve this problem, as well as to give an impetus to scientific community planning, Quezon City has been created, adjoining the City of Manila, and is now being developed as a model community.

The Government owns about one third of the 7335 hectares that comprise the City and can carry out this plan without the necessity of acquiring lands on a large scale for public purposes. Sites for parks, schools, markets, and other public buildings have been reserved and streets have been plotted wide enough to meet the needs of traffic. The new Capitol is now under construction at the end of a formal avenue 60 meters wide.

Government lands have been subdivided and are being sold to government employees and to the public for homesites on reasonable terms.

A zoning plan is in preparation under which business districts will be established in places planned for them, with adequate space for traffic and parking.

A new campus for the University of the Philippines has been laid out. It contains 490 hectares, large enough to meet the needs of the institution.

Buildings are now under construction in Quezon City for a proposed exposition. These buildings will serve to house agricultural and industrial exhibitions in the future.

A comprehensive study of the park and recreational problems of the Philippines is being made under the direction of the adviser on national parks assigned from the United States National Park Service. This study will include an inventory of the national scenic, historic and scientific resources of the country. From this inventory a selection will be made of those areas which offer the greatest recreational and inspirational values.

The national park office is cooperating with the Bureau of Forestry and the Bureau of Public Works in the preparation of master and layout plans to control the development of the park areas.

The national park office is encouraging provinces and municipalities to develop their own park and playground systems in order to take care of local recreational needs. All possible planning assistance will be offered to local authorities. Cooperative studies are now being made of a park and playground system for a greater Manila.

The economic repercussions of the present World War are being felt more and more acutely in the Philippines. Our trade with many nations has been reduced, prices for our export commodities have gone down, and freight and insurance rates have increased more than two hundred per cent. The result has been a decline in national income and purchasing power.

We are experiencing a marked decrease in our revenues, particularly in customs collections. But a drastic reduction of government expenditures at this time might not be advisable because it would tend to aggravate business conditions. It will be necessary, however, to readjust our expenditures and make use of our surplus reserves in order to prevent a deficit at the end of this fiscal year. I shall furnish you more details on the subject when I submit the budget for your consideration.

The depressing effects of the war on our economic and social conditions have been aggravated by the failure of the rice crop due to the drought in many sections of the country. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the National Rice and Corn Corporation have estimated a fall of about 20 per cent in our normal rice harvest.

We are thus confronted with the necessity of insuring a sufficient supply of rice and of helping people in our agrarian areas to find work which will tide them over until the next harvest. While before we could import the rice needed from Indo-China, Burma, and Thailand, we now encounter difficulties in obtaining rice from those countries. Fortunately, the National Rice and Corn Corporation has a carry-over stock of approximately 550,000 cavanos of rice which will be sufficient to cover the shortage in our stock for several months. I believe that any subsequent deficiency could well be filled by inducing our farmers to make a second planting of rice, particularly in those areas that can be irrigated.

Upon the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, I have authorized the expenditure from relief funds of the amount of P100,000 for the purchase of seeds to be loaned to farmers who want to plant rice, corn, mungo, and other food products. This plan, if it receives the cooperation of the people, will insure an adequate supply of rice and corn, and will provide tenants with work and means to carry on until next year. I have also authorized the granting of crop loans to these tenants from the emergency fund to defray the cost of planting and for the maintenance of their families until harvest time.

To give employment to those who have suffered from crop failures and to others who may need work, I have ordered the acceleration of public works projects already authorized. I feel that in times of stress, like the present, when private business and initiative are forced to limit the employment of laborers, the Government should take up the lag by expediting public works construction.

In order to reduce the harmful effects of droughts, I have directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to speed up irrigation projects.

Except for the adverse circumstances I have noted, the general conditions prevailing in the Philippines are satisfactory. We have been free from epidemics and other contagious diseases; peace and order has been maintained; litigations are being decided by the courts with greater speed; the school problem has been effectively met; and the relations between capital and labor are gradually being established on a more equitable basis. The people are showing confidence and faith in their Government and are making greater efforts to pay their taxes. We have, therefore, every reason to be gratified at the progress we have so far attained, in spite of the disturbing effects of the international situation.

In view of the present state of our revenues, I found it necessary to order the suspension of some projects not considered urgent. I have also approved the policy of restricting the filling of vacancies in the service and prohibiting increases in salary in the same position in the upper grades. I believe the time is not opportune for expanding the existing services or establishing new ones. There are, however, some pressing needs which it is my duty to bring to your attention.

The frequent failure of crops resulting from droughts demands that we construct more irrigation systems. Such constructions will provide employment for laborers during this period of widespread economic stress. In order to improve our fishing industry, I again recommend that the present Division of Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce be converted into a Bureau of Fisheries and that a school of fisheries be established under the bureau.

We are feeling more than ever the need of bringing science to the aid of industry. I desire to reiterate my recommendation made at your last session to consolidate all the scientific research activities of the Government into one research institute.

To effect a more equitable distribution of land, the Public Land Law should be amended so as to prohibit any owner of one or more parcels of land from acquiring lands by homestead and free patents the total area of which, added to that of his own land, shall exceed 144 hectares.

I believe that it would be conducive to greater efficiency and economy to place all credit institutions under a supervisory agency in the Government. I, therefore, recommend that the duties now assigned to the Bureau of the Treasury relating to insurance companies, mutual aid associations, and trusts, be taken over by the Bureau of Banking and that you authorize the transfer to this Bureau of all the personnel of the Bureau of the Treasury assigned to those duties.

For some time we have been having difficulty in obtaining certain government supplies and materials from abroad at reasonable prices. In view of this, the Division of Purchase and Supply should be authorized, subject to the approval of the President, to purchase in advance of requisitions, supplies and materials that are regularly needed.

The Constitution provides that all educational institutions shall be under the supervision of, and subject to regulation by, the State. Commonwealth Act No. 180 places under the supervision of the Office of Private Education only private schools granting diplomas and certificates. I recommend that this Act be amended to conform fully to the provision of the Constitution by requiring that all private schools, irrespective of whether or not they grant diplomas or certificates, be supervised by the Office of Private Education.

I am informed that the Commission on Elections will submit for your consideration a proposal for the amendment of our election laws. I ask you to give careful consideration to this proposal, particularly in relation to the appointment of election inspectors. The present system, whereby election inspectors are appointed upon the nomination of political parties, does not insure an impartial attitude on the part of the inspectors in the performance of their duties.

The constitutional amendments shortening the Presidential term from six to four years and prescribing the tenure of the members of the Congress—four years for Representatives and six years for Senators, with one-third of the members of the Senate to be elected every two years—require the setting of a definite schedule for the holding of elections so that, including the election for provincial and municipal officials, they may not occur more than once every two years. To this end, I recommend that the term of office for elective local officials be changed from three to four years, effective after the next election.

The constitutional amendments recently approved require executory legislation, which, I trust, you will pass in due course. In this connection, I desire to invite your attention to the provisions of Article VI, Section 17, and of Article VII, Section 11 (2), of the Constitution, which contains inhibitions affecting members of the Congress and certain officers of the Executive Department. I recommend that proper legislation be passed at this session to implement these constitutional provisions and provide sanction against their violation.

Conditions all over the world have changed since the outbreak of the present war. This change is bound to retard our progress towards some of the economic and social objectives that we have set. But we cannot abandon these objectives. We must pursue them with greater determination even if their achievement should entail added sacrifice.

We cannot now foretell the situation that will arise in the world after the war and it inadvisable to adopt economic plans based on future conditions that might never materialize. In the meantime, we should continue to minister to the health and welfare of our masses, intensify our efforts to solve the unemployment problem, speed up the execution of our program of national defense, stimulate the increase of our national income, insure a sufficient supply of food and clothing for any eventuality, promote social justice, push forward the extension of our educational facilities and the advancement of our cultural life, and safeguard for all our people the proper exercise of individual rights.

Gentlemen of the National Assembly, these are fateful days in which we live. Vital forces are reshaping political and social institutions the world over. Fear and want are afflicting the human race. Men and women everywhere are scanning the future for security and a more promising life. In the midst of this great crisis, our duty is clear. By a solemn covenant with America, the advent of our national independence is assured. We must prepare for it; we must not procrastinate; we must not falter. Trusting in Divine Providence, we must move forward firmly and courageously to achieve our long-cherished ideal—the establishment of the Philippine Republic—and to secure for our people prosperity, happiness and freedom under the shelter of peace and democracy.

Veto Message of President Quezon on the creation of two towns, June 13, 1941

**Veto Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the creation of two towns**

[Released in Manila, June 13, 1941]

CREATION OF TWO TOWNS

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 1931, entitled “An Act to create the new municipalities of Isabela and Lamitan in the Province of Zamboanga.”

I had occasion to veto a similar bill (No. 1247) passed in your second session because of a certain defect in the bill. Although this defect has been eliminated from Bill No. 1931, I am constrained to veto the bill because of its adverse effect on the interests of the inhabitants living in the Island of Basilan.

It has been brought to my attention that the amount annually spent by the City of Zamboanga for the administration of the Island of Basilan and the necessary public improvements therein far exceeds the tax collections from the island. This shows that the revenue of Basilan is not sufficient for its proper administration and development. With the separation of the island from the City of Zamboanga through the creation of the municipalities of Isabela and Lamitan, a portion of the realty tax collections of the municipalities will have to go to the Province of Zamboanga, thus further adversely affecting its finances and jeopardizing its progress and welfare. At the present time, the City of Zamboanga has funds amounting to P160,000 borrowed from the Market and Water Works Board, of which some P30,000 has been allocated for the improvement of the waterworks in Isabela, in the Island of Basilan, which the island stands to lose upon its separation from the City of Zamboanga.

As the City of Zamboanga has only recently been created, it is still premature to determine the advisability of reducing the territorial limits of the city. If the Island of Basilan were separated from the City of Zamboanga with a view to restoring the two municipalities of Isabela and Lamitan, it would be preferable that the City of Zamboanga be dismembered altogether and all the former municipalities composing the city restored to the Province of Zamboanga.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

THE
Manila

NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

Source: Supreme Court Library

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Creation of two towns]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (3), 380-381.

Veto Message of President Quezon on the reduction of toll schedules, June 13, 1941

**Veto Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the reduction of toll schedules**

[Released in Manila, June 13, 1941]

REDUCTION OF TOLL SCHEDULES

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 2217, entitled "An Act to further amend section one of Act Numbered Thirty-five Hundred," in view of the fact that the extension of the period for reimbursing the cost of construction of toll bridges from twenty to forty years would seriously affect the program of constructing revolving fund bridges under Act No. 3500. A proposed reduction by at least 50 per cent of the present schedules of tolls, as intended in the bill, would decrease proportionately the collections, and consequently it would permit only to a limited degree the construction of additional bridges which are financed from the accruals coming from toll collections. Furthermore, the increase in the period from twenty to forty years within which to reimburse the cost of bridges constructed under the said Act would only tend to increase the resulting cost of these bridges to the motoring public, because, by extending the period of collection, the total cost of such collection, as well as the total interest charges, would necessarily be increased. I find, therefore, no necessity for disturbing the twenty-year period prescribed in the present law which I consider to be a very liberal basis for financing revolving fund bridges.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

THE
Manila

NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Reduction of toll schedules]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (3), 381.

**Veto Message of President Quezon on the restoration of old name, June 13, 1941 Veto Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the restoration of old name**

[Released in Manila, June 13, 1941]

RESTORATION OF OLD NAME

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 2708, entitled “An Act to restore to the municipality of Luzuriaga, Province of Oriental Negros, its old name of Nueva Valencia,” for the reason that changing the names of municipalities would only create confusion in the records of real properties registered under the Land Registration Act and the Mortgage Law, as well as in the minds of the general public.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

THE
Manila

NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Restoration of old name]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (3), 381-382.

Veto Message of President Quezon on the Public Land Act Amendments, June 16, 1941

**Veto Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Public Land Act Amendments**

[Released in Manila, June 16, 1941]

PUBLIC LAND ACT AMENDMENTS

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 2788, entitled “An Act to amend sections sixty-seven and seventy-nine of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and forty-one, commonly known as ‘The Public Land Act.’ “

Although I am in sympathy with the intention of the proposed amendment which is to benefit persons who have been occupying for residential purposes small parcels of public lands, it is believed that the approval of the proposed measure would only have the effect of legalizing the status of squatters on such lands. The practice of squatting on public lands has been found to be a fertile source of public land controversies, and I can not, therefore, give my approval to a bill that would encourage such a practice. On the other hand, vigorous measures should be taken to put a stop to this practice which, if tolerated, would only mean further delay in the prompt settlement of claims to public lands and cause the Government to incur unnecessary expenses in the administration thereof.

At any rate, I do not find any necessity for the approval of the proposed amendments, as the present Public Land Law contains ample provisions to safeguard the rights and interests of bona fide occupants of public lands, especially the applicants for small parcels of the public domain.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

THE
Manila

NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

Source: Supreme Court Library

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Public Land Act Amendments]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (3), 382.

Veto Message of President Quezon on bonds for Mindoro, June 19, 1941

**Veto Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On bonds for Mindoro**

[Released in Manila, June 19, 1941]

BONDS FOR MINDORO

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

I regret to inform you that I have today disapproved Bill No. 2237, entitled "An Act authorizing the Province of Mindoro to issue bonds for the purpose of providing fund for permanent improvements in said province."

This bill is one of those that I certified for the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution, upon the assumption naturally that before approving the bill, the National Assembly would bear in mind the net paying capacity of the Province of Mindoro. I am informed, however, by the Secretary of Finance, the Commissioner of the Budget, and the Treasurer of the Philippines that the net paying capacity of the Province of Mindoro is very much below the amount of P200,000 sought to be borrowed by the said province and for which bonds are intended to be floated to cover the loan.

In view thereof, I cannot give my approval to the proposed measure.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

THE
Manila

NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Bonds for Mindoro]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (3), 383.

Veto Message of President Quezon on bonds for Cagayan, June 19, 1941

**Veto Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On bonds for Cagayan**

[Released in Manila, June 19, 1941]

BONDS FOR CAGAYAN

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Although I am in sympathy with the objective of Bill No. 2988, entitled "An Act authorizing the Province of Cagayan and the municipalities of Aparri, Lal-lo, and Camalaniugan to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds for the construction of a water system in the said municipalities," I am constrained to veto it in view of the information furnished me by the Secretary of Finance, the Commissioner of the Budget and the Treasurer of the Philippines that the total net paying capacity of the Province of Cagayan and the municipalities of Aparri, Lal-lo, and Camalaniugan, after considering their present outstanding loans, and on the basis of their financial operations during the last four and one-half years, is very much below the amount of P520,000 sought to be borrowed by the entities through the issuance of bonds.

In this connection, it may be stated that although this is one of the bills that I certified for the purposes of Article VI, section 12, paragraph (2), of the Constitution, I did it under the assumption that the net paying capacity of the Province of Cagayan and the municipalities of Aparri, Lal-lo, and Camalaniugan would be taken into consideration by the National Assembly before approving the bill.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

THE
Manila

NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). [Bonds for Cagayan]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (3), 383-384.

Message of President Quezon on the occasion of the observance of Loyalty Day, June 19, 1941

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the observance of Loyalty Day**

[Delivered over the radio from Malacañan Palace, Manila, June 19, 1941]

**PRESIDENT PLEDGES
UNSWERVING FILIPINO
LOYALTY TO AMERICA**

**Says U. S. Cause Is Our Own Cause;
Filipinos Ready to Fight
If U. S. Enters War**

INTIMATE COLLABORATION

**Defense Work, Civilian Preparedness
Speeded up; Adequate Food
Supply to Be Assured**

The following Message of His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines, was delivered over the radio from Malacañan Palace, Manila, on the occasion of the observance of Loyalty Day on the birthday of Jose Rizal, June 19, 1941:

MY FELLOW CITIZENS AND FRIENDS:

We have set aside this Loyalty Day to express the wholehearted and unswerving loyalty of all the elements of our population to the United States of America and to the Philippines, as well as to the great principles of liberty and democracy which are cherished by Americans and Filipinos alike. This enthusiastic demonstration is doubly significant because it is held upon the initiative of our laboring masses and their leaders who, in this manner, have sought to prove that their loyalty to our country is above their loyalty to any class, and to prove also their condemnation of communism and other political philosophies which are subversive of the present order under our Constitution. No more fitting day could have been chosen for this purpose than the anniversary of the birthday of Rizal, for the ideals and way of life for which he strove and died are the same as those for the defense of which we are ready to sacrifice our lives and our all.

I wish to speak to you today about the grave national emergency that we are facing. Events that are fast happening beyond our borders are rapidly and deeply affecting our lives and our fate. Nearly two-thirds of the peoples of the world are at war in three continents and the remaining one-third, including ourselves, is in some way already involved in the conflict. No greater ordeal has afflicted the human race since the dawn of civilization than that which it is going through now. Most of the democracies of Europe are already under the iron heels of military conquerors.

And the onward march of military conquest is proceeding relentlessly and with unabated speed. Britain remains alone fighting gallantly against tremendous odds to stave this march and to maintain the flame of liberty in those lands where western civilization was born and where it attained its highest development. Liberty itself and all the principles which we ourselves cherish and which are the foundations of our culture and political ideology are in the throes of agony threatened with extinction from the face of the earth.

The United States, faithful to her traditional policy of noninterference in the affairs of other continents, followed a course of strict neutrality at the beginning of the war. She not only adopted a policy of nonintervention but, through the Neutrality Act passed by Congress, took the necessary precautions to avoid incidents that might drag her into the conflict. Gradually, however, the people of America have sensed from the trend of world events a grave threat upon the security and future welfare of the western hemisphere. They have seen that the course of conquest undertaken by the totalitarian powers is designed to effect the domination of the whole world, to uproot democracy wherever it may be found, and to destroy the free way of life of the common man. This program was at first considered too astounding to merit serious concern, but not now, for later events have proven that the dictators are capable of achieving what many believed impossible, and even today are pursuing a course which clearly points to that goal.

President Roosevelt great and inspired leader with an unquenchable love for peace and liberty, fully comprehending the dangers which the totalitarian march of conquest has brought upon the western hemisphere and all the territories under the American flag, and to democracy everywhere, has aroused the American people to a keen consciousness of these dangers. With the approval of Congress, he has proclaimed the United States the arsenal of democracies fighting to maintain their liberties. In a recent address, he informed the peoples of America and of the whole world of the policies which the United States will follow in the present emergency, and the reasons for such policies. This address will go down in history as one of the most fateful documents of all times, and the decisions enunciated therein will, I believe, affect the destiny of mankind. No one who has read or heard that address can doubt the motives of America. No one can question her unselfish devotion to peace and democracy.

Now, my countrymen, what of the Philippines? What is our duty at present? What line of policy should we follow? What direction should the national efforts take? What is our stake in the present war?

We owe loyalty to America and we are bound to her by bonds of everlasting gratitude. Should the United States enter the war, the Philippines should follow her and fight by her side, placing at her disposal all our man power and material resources to help her in achieving victory, for the cause for which America would fight is our own cause.

The United States seeks to defend the principles which we cherish and without which we could not live as a free nation. She is striving to preserve liberty and democracy and individual freedom, and these are things for which we, too, would fight and die. The United States is struggling to prevent the domination of the world by dictators and we, too, would fight and die against such masters. The United States wants to uphold the rule of right and justice in international relations and to safeguard the independence of small nations, to free them from the fear of aggression and subjugation by military powers,—and we, too, would fight and die to save our country from such threats and perils. And so, if the United States decides to enter this war, it will be our war as much as the war of the United States, and her decision will be our decision. In such event, she will find all the people of this country to the last man on her side, fighting under her banner and praying to Almighty God for the victory of her arms.

Our stake in this war is more than the continued existence of democracy and individual freedom in the world. It is more than the maintenance of a free economy and free commercial intercourse among nations, and an unregimented social life. Our stake in this war is our own future independence and the assurance that that independence may endure.

I have endeavored to the full measure of our resources to hasten the execution of our national defense program. The United States, I am happy to inform you, is also doing everything to strengthen the military defenses of our country. I trust that very soon it will be possible for the Government of the United States to send us more planes and more guns and ammunition to increase our power of resistance against invasion. We only need more equipment and more supplies, for we have abundant man power. We have strong, intelligent young men who are eager to join the ranks for our defense and to uphold the principles which President Roosevelt has proclaimed to the world.

For the safety of our civilian population I have, jointly with the High Commissioner of the United States in the Philippines, established the Civilian Emergency Administration and called upon the men of the Philippines to enlist as volunteers to protect our homes, to track down spies and saboteurs, and to help minimize the damage and destruction which the enemy might inflict upon us. I urge upon our women the duty of coöperating in this civilian effort and to train themselves properly to give first aid to the wounded and those that may receive injury of any sort by enemy action.

These are times of stress and great danger. Every Filipino should awaken to the realities of the situation confronting us. Our first concern should be to insure an adequate food supply. The Government is trying to build up stocks of food that may be used to relieve shortages of such commodities. But these will not be sufficient, if our lines of communication with the United States are disrupted. We can only insure an adequate food supply at all times and in any emergency, by producing in our country all our requirements. This we can do. This we should do. I call upon all the people to bend their every effort to increase their production of food articles, particularly rice and corn, to avoid hunger and suffering among our population. Housewives should also look forward to the danger of shortage and, even now, should build up individual stocks in their homes to meet their needs in an emergency, and begin to avoid waste and economize on these supplies.

Labor and capital should likewise comprehend their duties and responsibilities in the present crisis. They should avoid conflicts that will stop production. Strikes are wasteful and I hope they will not be resorted to except in extreme cases and only after giving the agencies of the Government an opportunity to settle the controversy.

In order to finance our defense preparations, I have requested the President of the United States to make available to our Government the funds derived from the excise tax on Philippine sugar, as well as the funds accruing to our Government from the devaluation of the American dollar. I have assurances that this request is receiving sympathetic consideration by the American Government and I trust that favorable action will be taken thereon in the near future. Your Government has also been taking steps to obtain equipment and war materials from the United States under the Lend-Lease Act. It is my expectation that supplies will be given us through this method in increasing quantities.

The Commonwealth Government has been working in intimate collaboration with the United States High Commissioner and American military and naval authorities in the Philippines in relation to our national defense program, and I wish to make public my appreciation of the splendid spirit of coöperation which has been patent in all our dealings. Above all, I wish to express our gratitude for the interest which President Roosevelt and the American Government as a whole have shown in the defense of the Philippines.

I wish to close this address with the words of President Roosevelt in his proclamation declaring an unlimited national emergency, for these words convey the same call to duty which I should like to urge upon my fellow countrymen:

“I call upon all loyal citizens * * * to give precedence to the needs of the nation to the end that a system of government that makes private enterprise possible may survive. I call upon all loyal workmen, as well as employers, to merge their lesser differences in the larger effort to ensure the survival of the only kind of government which recognizes the rights of labor or capital.

“I call upon loyal local leaders and officials to coöperate with the civilian defense agencies of the United States to ensure our internal security against foreign-directed subversion, and to put every community in order for the maximum productive effort with a minimum of waste and unnecessary friction.

“I call upon all loyal citizens to place the nation’s needs first in mind and in action to the end that we may mobilize and have ready for instant defensive use all of the physical powers, all of the moral strength and all the materials and resources of this nation.”

Source: Supreme Court Library

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Message of President Quezon on the occasion of the observance of Loyalty Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (1), 3-7.

Message of President Quezon to the National Assembly, December 11, 1941

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the National Assembly**

[Released on December 11, 1941]

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

On December 8, 1941, the Congress of the United States declared a state of war to exist between the United States and the Imperial Government of Japan.

On behalf of our Government and people, I have on repeated occasions assured the President of the United States of our loyalty to America and our determination to place at her disposal all the man power and resources of our nation.

I now urge you to enact all the necessary legislation to meet the existing emergency. I particularly want you to appropriate all the available funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the care and protection of the civilian population which constitute our prime duty in the present emergency, for while the military defense of the Philippines is primarily the responsibility of America, the care and protection of the civilian population are the duty of the Government of the Commonwealth.

Let us lift our hearts to Heaven and place our trust in Him who rules over the destinies of nations.

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
Manila

National

Assembly

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Message of President Quezon to the National Assembly. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (25), 4729.

Message of President Quezon to the Speaker of the National Assembly, December 11, 1941

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Speaker of the National Assembly**

[Released on December 11, 1941]

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

THE
NATIONAL
Manila

SPEAKER
ASSEMBLY

SIR:

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2) section 12, Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Bill No. 3224 entitled "An Act appropriating all unexpended balances of the general fund and authorizing the fund of the unexpended balances of all special funds in the Philippine Treasury for the national defense of, and the protection of the civilian population in, the Philippines, and for other purposes connected with the present emergency."

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Message of President Quezon to the Speaker of the National Assembly. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (25), 4729-4730.

Message of President Quezon to the Speaker of the National Assembly, December 12, 1941

**Message
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Speaker of the National Assembly**

[Released on December 12, 1941]

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

THE
NATIONAL
Manila

SPEAKER
ASSEMBLY

SIR:

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2), section 12, Article VI, of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Bill No. 3225, entitled "An Act declaring a state of total emergency as a result of war involving the Philippines and authorizing the President to promulgate rules and regulations to meet such emergency."

Respectfully,

MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Message of President Quezon to the Speaker of the National Assembly. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (25), 4730.

Message of President Quezon to the National Assembly on Emergency Powers, October 30, 1943

October 30, 1943

MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON EMERGENCY POWERS

Leading to Commonwealth Act No. 496 (September 30, 1939)

1. Message of September 5, 1939. (Typewritten Copy)
2. Message of September 16, 1939. (" ")

Leading to Commonwealth Act No. 600 (August 19, 1940)

3. Message of July 15, 1940. (Photostat copy: Philippines Herald, July 16, 1940).

Last Message before Commonwealth Act. No. 620 (June 6, 1941)

4. Message of January 31, 1941. (Photostat copy: Philippines Herald, February 1, 1941).

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

LETTER AND TELEGRAMS

Letter of President Quezon to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly, December 18, 1935

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly**

[Released on December 18, 1935]

**ADHERENCE TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE
CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution of a nation is the depository of the rights of the people.

So long as the letter of the Constitution is strictly adhered to, so long also may the people rest assured that their constitutional rights are properly protected.

A deviation from the letter and spirit of the Constitution is a violation of the faith of the people reposed in their constitutional representatives.

It is the primary duty of every public official to give the most careful consideration to the written provisions of the Constitution, and in case of doubt, that doubt must be decided in favor of a strict adherence to its provisions.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Letter of President Quezon to Honorable Pedro Magsalin, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly, December 18, 1935

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 18, 1935

Hon. PEDRO MAGSALIN
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
National Assembly, Manila

MY DEAR ASSEMBLYMAN MAGSALIN :

In connection with the bill creating the Court of Appeals which is now the subject of study by your Committee, I wish to state that in order to permit a more thorough and careful selection of the members of that Court, I believe it wise, and therefore recommend, that the effectiveness of the Act be postponed until February 1, 1936. It should be clearly understood, however, that aside from this I see no other valid reason for postponing the effectivity of this law, since my own personal investigation of the condition of the docket of the Supreme Court has convinced me that the administration of justice will not suffer in any way if said law were made effective on January 1, 1936. On the other hand, it will bring about sooner the needed reform in our judiciary system so long felt and acknowledged by every one interested in the proper administration of justice in these Islands.

It should be remembered that in providing for the judicial department of the Government, the Constitution requires that a member of the Supreme Court must be a citizen of the Philippines for at least five years. Notwithstanding this provision, by virtue of section 4 of the Transitory Provisions, the American members of the Supreme Court may continue in office until the President shall appoint their successors, if such appointment is made within a period of one year from the date of the inauguration of the Commonwealth. The President, therefore, by his failure to make that appointment may even permit the American members of the Court to continue as such until they shall have reached the age limit provided by the Constitution. It is evident, however, that this provision has been embodied in the Constitution for one purpose only, and that is, to secure the normal functioning of the Government which otherwise might be seriously affected should the constitutional provisions be given immediate effect. Upon the President is placed the sole responsibility of determining how long should compliance with the letter and spirit of the basic provisions of the Constitution be suspended. As soon as the President shall have found that such application shall not result to the detriment of the public interest, it becomes his plain duty to enforce the Constitution to its fullest extent.

The Constitution of a nation is the depository of the rights of the people. It is the foundation of all constitutional forms of government. So long as the letter of the Constitution is strictly adhered to, so long also may the people rest assured that their constitutional rights are properly protected. A deviation from the letter and spirit of the Constitution is a violation of the faith of the people reposed in their constitutional representatives. Wherever any government has dared to deviate from the rules laid down in the Constitution for its operation, it has been found that the very existence of a constitutional government has been placed at great peril. It is, therefore, the primary duty of every public official to give the most careful consideration to the written provisions of the Constitution, and in case of doubt, that doubt must be decided in favor of a strict adherence to its provisions: As the first Chief Executive of this Commonwealth, my action in this respect will eventually serve as a precedent to my successors, and having pledged myself to defend and support the Constitution, it shall be my purpose in all my official actions to keep a strict observance of its letter and spirit.

It is for this reason that I have recommended to the National Assembly in a separate message the repeal of section 683 of the Administrative Code which makes it possible for the Chief Executive to make appointments without regard to civil service rules. While this provision which has been written in the Administrative Code for many years might be of useful application in some cases, the good which it may do is more than offset by the possible abuse that

may result therefrom, and, not being clearly within the spirit of the constitutional provisions regarding the civil service, I have deemed it my duty to recommend its elimination from our statute books.

Having reached the conclusion, therefore, that the exercise of the discretion granted to me by the transitory provisions of the Constitution to retain the American members of the Supreme Court has ceased to be necessary to the public interest, I will be failing in my duty if I did not recommend strict compliance with the basic provisions of the Constitution. This being so, only personal considerations to the American members of the Supreme Court can justify their retention in the service. I do not believe that such personal considerations should be placed above the express mandate of our Constitution, especially as in their case, our Government has accorded them a generous treatment which no other government in the same financial condition as ours would have done to any of its officers or employees. As much as I appreciate the past services of these members of the Supreme Court, I have to recommend that their personal interest be subordinated to the weal of the nation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Clerical Hire of National Assembly, January 2, 1936

LETTER
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON CLERICAL HIRE OF NATIONAL, ASSEMBLY

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

January 2, 1936

MY DEAR ASSEMBLYMAN MARABUT:

I have received your letter of December 24, 1935, together with your statement to the press regarding Bill No. 139, entitled "An Act to amend section two, letter B, of Act Numbered Four thousand one hundred eighty-seven as authorized and amended by section one of Act Numbered Four Thousand two hundred thirty-one, and for other purposes," and I am pleased to inform you that I have today signed the bill including the item which appropriates the sum of P294,000 for clerks of the members of the National Assembly.

I have noticed the criticism to which the Assembly has been subjected because of this item and I see that this criticism is founded upon a wrong premise—that this amount so appropriated for clerical hire means in effect an increase in the salary of the members of the Assembly. I suppose this is because there exists the impression that in the past, the appropriation for salaries of employees of individual members of the Legislature was not paid to employees, or if paid, only a very small part of it, the rest being retained by the members themselves.

I have signed the bill with this item knowing that this will not be the case hereafter, because the amount appropriated will have to go directly to the employees of the members of the Assembly and not a cent thereof may be diverted for other purposes, much less paid to the Assemblyman himself or retained by him. The Constitution of the Philippines and the very bill which I have signed, now Act No. 19, would be violated if any of this amount is retained by a member of the Assembly and the Assemblyman so acting would be subjected to criminal prosecution. I have approved, therefore, this item because I know that this money is going to be paid to the secretaries and other employees of the members of the Assembly and because I am convinced that in order that these members of the Assembly may perform their duties properly they need such help.

If our people want a democracy they must realize the importance of the legislative department. They must have confidence in the men whom they select to represent them in the National Assembly until by their own acts they lose the right to their confidence and trust. It is to the interest of the people that the legislative department do its work properly. It must be borne in mind that now we have only one House constituting the whole legislative department of the Government, and it is a tremendous responsibility that the members of the Assembly are carrying upon their shoulders. They must, therefore, have all the help that they need. Under the new organization of the House where the leadership has been transferred from the Chair to the floor and the committees, the need for steady and diligent work on the part of the members of the House is apparent. I am sure that it is not the intention of the members of the Assembly to circumvent the law and the Constitution by increasing their salaries through indirect means. If any such attempt were made there is power in the Executive to prevent it. Regardless of what we think of the salary now being provided by law for members of the Assembly, it is the duty of all to uphold the Constitution and not to permit its violation.

It is with the above understanding that I have given my approval to the bill.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Chairman,
National Assembly, Manila

SERAFIN
Committee

on

MARABUT
Appropriations

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on benefit payments to sugar planters of the Philippines affected by the Sugar Limitation Act of the United States Congress

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On benefit payments to sugar planters of the Philippines
affected by the Sugar Limitation Act of the United States Congress**

[Released on January 11, 1936]

My dear Mr. High Commissioner:

I am informed that several thousands of sugar planters have not yet received the full amount of benefit payment to which they are entitled the contracts which they have signed with the United States sugar authorities, in connection with the reduction of sugar production in the Philippines. The amount involved, I understand, is around \$3,000,000 and the number of planters affected close to 15,000. While the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States may have affected the validity of the collection of the processing tax, it is believed that there exists a binding obligation on the part of the United States Government to reimburse all these planters with the losses which they have suffered by reason of the reduction of their crops in the amount which has been fixed by the United States Government itself. I would, therefore, urgently request that proper representation be made to your Government so that the rights of these planters may be properly protected.

With assurances of my highest esteem, I beg to be, Sir

Very respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

His
U.S.
Manila

Excellency

High

Frank

Murphy
Commissioner

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon upon offering Judge Pedro Concepcion the Presidency of the Court of Appeals,
January 30, 1936**

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
UPON
**OFFERING JUDGE PEDRO CONCEPCION THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE COURT OF APPEALS**

[January 30, 1936]

My dear Judge Concepcion:

Although I know that you already have decided to engage in your profession, and for which reason you have presented your resignation as Judge of the First Branch of the Court of First Instance of Manila, I consider your services in the judiciary still necessary, and I write you this letter to ask you to accept the appointment that desire to offer you.

My first intention was to appoint you to the Supreme Court, because for a long time now I have been of the opinion that you would constitute a valuable element in said Court, but upon finding myself confronted with the necessity of selecting a person to preside over the Court of Appeals that would not give rise to discussions on the wisdom of the designation, I have thought that I should select you, having in mind that the prestige you have acquired in the public esteem is sufficient guarantee to make the acceptance of the appointment unanimous. The importance of the Court of Appeals in our judicial organization is great. Many of the cases which before reached the Supreme Court will be finally decided by the Court of Appeals. The duties of the President of the Court of Appeals have, during the initial period, at least more importance than those of a mere justice of the Supreme Court, and for that reason I think you will be able to render a service of greater transcendence to the administration of justice as President of the Court of Appeals than if you formed part of the Supreme Court as one of its members.

This is the reason why I have thought of you for this post, and I would be grateful if you should consider its acceptance a duty. I understand that you are making a sacrifice by returning to the judiciary, but knowing your public spirit, I do not hesitate in thus calling upon you. As soon as your services in the Court of Appeals would no longer be necessary, you will be able again to apply for your retirement, or if there is an opportunity and you desire to go to the Supreme Court, I shall be greatly pleased to appoint you to said Court.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
75 Escolta, Manila

Pedro

Concepcion

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on the termination of the contract between Manila Harbor Board and Manila Terminal Company, February 3, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the termination of the contract between Manila Harbor Board
and Manila Terminal Company**

[February 3, 1936]

My dear Secretary Quirino:

With reference to your action ordering the termination of the contract of the Manila Harbor Board with the Manila Terminal Co., which has been brought to my attention both by you and by the Manila Harbor Board, I wish to state that, after due consideration of the matter, I have come to the conclusion that you are absolutely right in deciding terminate that contract. The question here is not whether the Government should undertake the “arrastre” work again or not, nor whether the Manila Terminal Co. has rendered efficient service, but is one of general policy. It is wrong for the Government to renew contracts without submitting them again to public bid. Not to do so places the Government and the officials concerned in a vulnerable position; it gives occasion for the charge, however unfounded, that the Government is playing favorites or that the officials concerned are being influenced by considerations other than those of the public interest. In this connection, I shall today issue an executive order prohibiting the automatic renewal of contracts, unless there are special reasons in a given case, in which event a contract may be renewed after the Auditor General, the Secretary of Justice, and the Secretary of the Department concerned have been consulted and the approval of the President has been secured beforehand.

By terminating the contract with the Manila Terminal Co., two alternatives will be left open to the Government; one is for the Government, either through the Bureau of Customs or any of its instrumentalities or agencies, to undertake this work; the other is, if the Government should find that it cannot do the work efficiently, to call for new bids and give the service to the company offering the best terms under sufficiently guaranty of ability to fulfill the contract. If the Manila Terminal Co. should offer the best terms, naturally it would continue handling the work, as heretofore, during the time stipulated in the new contract.

In order to avoid the question of whether or not you have the legal power, under the terms of the contract between the Manila Harbor Board and the Manila Terminal Co., to give notice of the termination of that contract, I request you to instruct the Manila Harbor Board to pass a resolution giving the Manila Terminal Co. such notice, first, however, securing the advice of the Department of Justice as to whether the contract may be terminated on the 31st of May this year or on the 31st of May next year. Whatever the opinion of the Department of Justice may be on this matter should be followed.

Copy of this letter is being sent to the Manila Harbor Board, in view of the fact that said Board has also presented this question to me.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The			Honorable
The	Secretary	of	Finance
Manila			

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Letter of President Quezon on Judge Francisco Enage's declining an appointment to the Court of Appeals,
February 5, 1936**

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**JUDGE FRANCISCO ENAGE'S DECLINING AN APPOINTMENT
TO THE COURT OF APPEALS**

[February 5, 1936]

Dear Judge Enage:

I have received your letter, and although I deeply regret that I cannot dispose of your services for the Court of Appeals, I should acknowledge that from your viewpoint you are fully justified in declining at present the appointment which I offered and which you accepted previously.

I am all the more sorry that I cannot count on you for the new Tribunal as your attitude in refusing to accept the appointment, for the noble and the high motives you have stated in your letter, is further confirmation of the high conception that I have always held of your sense of duty, the integrity of your character and the firmness of your convictions. You already showed these when you refund the post of Speaker under the circumstances in which it was offered to you, and your stand then was what induced me to consider your name for the Court of Appeals.

It seemed to me then, as it seems to me now, that a person who declines a post with high honors and substantial compensation, solely because he considers it incompatible with his sincere convictions, offers the highest example of public decorum, integrity and independence, qualities which if necessary in the discharge of any government post, are more so in judicial functions.

There is a point in this matter, however, on which I wish to make my stand clear to prevent future misunderstandings over the true motives that have induced me to accede to your wish not to be appointed to the Court of Appeals. This question refers to the constitutionality of your appointment.

As you very well said in you letter, when I offered you a post in the Court of Appeals, I declared that I was sure that your appointment would not infringe any precept of the Constitution, because the Secretary of Justice, who had previously been consulted by me, had this opinion, and with which insofar as I am concerned I am in full accord. The part of the Constitution pertaining to the case is section 8, paragraph 1, of Article VI which treats of legislative power. The said section reads:

No member of the National Assembly may hold any other office or employment in the Government without forfeiting his seat, nor shall any such Member during the time for which he was elected be appointed to any civil office which may have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased while he was a member of the National Assembly.

The substantial difference between the two articles is very evident because according to the Constitution of the Philippines, the post to which an assemblyman cannot legally be appointed is that which was created or whose emolument was increased when he was a member of the said Assembly, whereas under the American Constitution of the Jones Law it is enough that the post should have been created or its emoluments increased during the term for

which the senator or representative was elected for him to be banned from occupying it, without taking into consideration whether at the time the post was created or its emolument increased he was or had ceased to be a member of the Legislature.

This difference of concept and phraseology was not due to a neglect on the part of those who drafted our Constitution; it was, on the contrary, a deliberate act in obedience to a well-defined purpose.

In the original draft of the Constitution prepared by the so-called subcommittee of seven of the Steering Committee of the Constitutional Convention, the language used in this regard appeared to have been literally copied from the Constitution of the United States and the Jones Law.

But, when it was discussed by the Committee on Style, after the Constitutional Convention had approved the constitutional draft in principle, and as I had feared that the subject under discussion was still phrased as in the original project, I called the attention of the President of that Body now Associate Justice Claro M. Recto, who also presided over that committee, to the fact that such a clause, if kept in its form, might prejudice the public service in the establishment of the new Government of the Philippines.

I declared then to President Recto that if it might happen that among the delegates elected to the National Assembly there were persons whom the Chief Executive might consider needful in other departments offices or activities of the government created by the National Assembly, and if the language of the Constitution of the United States or the Jones Law were approved, such persons who were elected to the National Assembly would no longer be available for those new offices.

President Recto was in agreement with me in that it would be convenient to give the Chief Executive a free hand in the reorganization of the government to that he might get the best men available, although they might be members of the National Assembly, for whatever posts in the Government of the Philippines, and to this President Recto agreed with me declaring that the language used, in respect to the provision in question, by the American Constitution would be modified into the text that now appears in the Constitution of the Philippines, so that if in the opinion of the Chief Executive a member of the national Assembly should be named, he could be beforehand ask this member of the Assembly to tender his resignation before the legislation creating the post to which he could be appointed would be approved by the National Assembly. This change was approved by the Committee on Style which, as everybody knows, revised the original text, and adopted finally by the Constitutional Convention.

Even from the ethical point of view, your appointment should not raise any doubt, it being known to me, and my knowledge of this matter is personal and direct, that you neither initiated yourself nor exercised any influence whatsoever in the approval of the law creating the Court of Appeals. The Constitution Assembly had already recognized the need of creating this tribunal, and the President of the Supreme Court and all the Filipino justices as well as the Secretary of Justice were the ones who took special interest in the immediate approval of the law which provides for its creation, considering it absolutely necessary for the improvement of the administration of justice in the Philippines. It was, therefore, by reason of those authorized opinions and legitimate influences, and not for any other reason, that the measure was promptly enacted into law.

With all this, I recognize the difficulty of removing completely the doubt that has been created in the public mind regarding the legality of this appointment, which even some prominent lawyers share, and it would not be strange at all that in cases to be submitted to the Court of Appeals, in those disposition you would participate, they would discuss the constitutionality of your appointment and the question might reach, as it very well could, the Supreme Court of the United States, a step that would mean a considerable delay in the final disposition of such cases resulting in prejudice to the expeditious and prompt administration of justice. In this case, the Executive, knowing there circumstances, will have no justification to provoke with your appointment such a question with the consequences I have already mentioned. On the other hand, even admitting that in your appointment the Constitution has been respected, there would not be lacking those who would believe that you had actually exercised certain influence in the approval of the above-mentioned law, since you had occupied the post of floor leader of the National Assembly when the measure was endorsed to the corresponding committee, the public not having been acquainted with all the minor details regarding the interior deliberations of the National Assembly.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Judge
Manila

Francisco

Enage

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on appointing Secretary Elpidio Quirino as Secretary of the Interior

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Upon appointing Secretary Elpidio Quirino as Secretary of the Interior**

[Released on February 8, 1936]

My dear Secretary Quirino:

I am appointing you today Secretary of the Interior vice Secretary Sison. The Department of the Interior, as the ranking Department of this Government, is daily confronted with the practical problems dealing in the majority of cases with important political and administrative matters which require tact and statesmanship of no ordinary type in order to secure the cooperation of the provincial and municipal officials. I am confident that I am placing the Department of the Interior in very competent hands.

There is in your case a distinct advantage in assuming the portfolio of the Interior. With your experiences as a successful Secretary of Finance, you will no doubt be in a position to properly supervise and control, as well as advise, the officials concerned in matters affecting provincial and municipal finances.

In giving you this new appointment I want to express to you my appreciation of the able and efficient manner in which you have performed your duties as Secretary of Finance. You have been courageous and impartial in your decisions. Under your administration you have been able to keep the budget balanced in spite of the urgent and extraordinary expenditures attendant to the establishment of our new government and in the face of the falling revenues and the economic depression.

With the assurances of my high esteem, I am

Very Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Secretary
Manila

Elpidio
of

Quirino
Finance

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on accepting Mr. Joaquin M. Elizalde's resignation as President of the National Development Company

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On accepting Mr. Joaquin M. Elizalde's resignation
as President of the National Development Company**

[Released on February 9, 1936]

My dear Mr. Elizalde:

In deference to your insistent request, I am accepting with regret your resignation as President of the National Development Company, in which capacity you have served the Government without pay for nearly two years. Under your presidency of the National Development Company the Cebu Portland Cement Company has increased both the volume of its sales and the amount of its profits. The cost of Production has also decreased. The Sabani Estate which for years had been practically left in the hands of private individuals who used it for their own profit, is now being Parceled out among the tenants and is not only repaying cost to the Government, but what is equally important, it is also providing homes and land for a large number of families. Your resignation, therefore, is a real loss to the Government, since it has in all respects profited by your leadership and experience in business. I realize, however, that it would be unjust to you and to the interests you represent if I were to insist upon your continuing to serve the National Development Company as its President, and for this reason I am compelled to accede to your wishes.

Thanking you for your unselfish service and cooperation, and assuring you of my high esteem and personal regard, I remain.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Mr.
Elizalde
Manila

Joaquin

&

M.

Elizalde
Co.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on enforcement of Civil Service Procedure in Administrative actions against the personnel of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes, February 19, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE PROCEDURE IN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST THE PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES

[February 19, 1936]

Sir:

The question before me involves the prerogative of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to dismiss the personnel it has the power to appoint, and the right of the Auditor General to maintain at all times his constitutional control to audit and supervise the accounts of all Government agencies.

While the trite rule of construction has been invoked in this case that “the right of removal resided in the appointing power” which for the present I do not desire to decide, I believe that the nature of the duties of the appointee in its bearing upon the exercise of curtailment of Government control and check should be of paramount consideration in the exercise of the power to dismiss as a corollary of the power to appoint.

As the personnel of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has been, since January 1, 1936, the date when Executive Order of the President went into effect, subject to all Civil Service requirements under the Constitution, it follows that all disciplinary action thereunder should conform with the Civil Service procedure established for the purpose. This is guaranteed by the Constitution which provides that “no officer or employee in the Civil Service shall be removed or suspended except for cause as provided by law” (Art. XI, section 4, Philippine Constitution). Therefore, if there are sufficient grounds upon which to base administrative action against the Auditor of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Board of Trustees should follow the regularly established Civil Service rules and procedure.

In the meantime, the authority of the Auditor General or his representatives over the accounts and disbursements of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office should be respected without prejudice to the Board of Trustees appealing to the President any specific decision objected to by them as provided in Article 10, section 3, of the Constitution.

Copies of this decision have been furnished the Auditor General and the Director of Civil Service for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
The
Manila

Secretary

of

Honorable
Finance

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Preparatory Military Training in all public and private schools, February 19, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**PREPARATORY MILITARY TRAINING IN ALL PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

[February 19, 1936]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Under the provisions of Article VII Title III, of the National Defense Act, preparatory military training will be given in all public and private schools.

The Chief of Staff of the Army has prepared a course of instruction for male teachers which will be given between April 13 and May 9, 1936, inclusive, at the provincial capitol of each province. You will, therefore, cause the Director of Education and the Commissioner of Private Schools to send two male teachers from each elementary and high school or vocational school to the training center for teachers no later than noon of April the 13th next.

The Army authorities have already prepared to carry on the above instructions as required in Title III of the Act; and the Chief of Staff has been instructed to authorize the necessary transportation and subsistence allowances for all teachers reporting for this training.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The				Honorable
The	Secretary	of	Public	Instruction
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on placing the office personnel of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes under Civil Service Rules, February 19, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**PLACING THE OFFICE PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE
CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES UNDER CIVIL SERVICE RULES**

[February 19, 1936]

Sir:

I have given very careful study and consideration to the record submitted in which the status of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is thoroughly argues.

It appears that when the Office of the Sweepstakes was created under Act No. 4130, section 2 thereof provided in part that "the Board of Trustees may make the appointments without taking into consideration the Civil Service Law and Rules." Under this exemption the appointments to the Sweepstakes Office were made without regard to examination requirements.

With the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, the Constitution went into full force and effect and that there could be no possible misinterpretation of its provision with special reference to appointments in the public service, I issued Executive Order No. 8, effective January 1, 1936.

It is evident, therefore, that except for the exemptions provided in Act No. 4130 the Civil Service requirements would have been invoked from the very beginning; for, unlike the Philippine National Bank, the National Development Company and other similar companies which are not performing strictly governmental functions, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes was organized to provide funds for the care, in the main, of public welfare activities of the Government such as social work, hospitals, dispensaries, public recreation, etc.

The continuance of the exemption from Civil Service examination requirements in the appointments of employees of the Sweepstakes Office is, therefore, repugnant to the Constitution and to Executive Order No. 8, as may be seen from Article XV, section 2, of the Constitution, which I quote in its pertinent part:

"SEC. 2. All laws of the Philippine Islands shall continue in force until the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines; thereafter, such laws shall remain operative, unless inconsistent with this Constitution * * *."

In view of the foregoing and of the very clear provisions of the Constitution, I hereby decide that effective as of January 1, 1936 as stated in Executive Order No. 8, which I issued enforcing the Civil Service requirements of the Constitution, the personnel of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes was ipso facto placed within the scope of the Civil Service mandate and the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes is hereby directed to guide itself accordingly.

Copies of this decision have been furnished the Auditor General and the Director of Civil Service for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon

The						Honorable
The	Secretary	of	Finance	and		Chairman
Board			of			Trustees
Philippine			Charity			Sweepstakes
Manila						

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Appointment of Justices of the Peace, March 16, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Appointment of Justices**

[March 16, 1936]

My Dear Floor Leader Romero:

I am very glad to receive your telegram of March 12th, wherein you assure me that in calling a caucus of the members of the Assembly today it was precisely your "intention to dispel misinformation and explain that their recommendations (in reference to justices of the peace) are being and will be considered although final selection lies with the Executive."

I confess that when I read in the newspapers the report that some members of the National Assembly claimed the right not only to be consulted by the Executive in making appointments for justices of the peace, but also to demand that only men of their choice be appointed to said positions, I felt very much disturbed. I am, therefore, gratified to learn that such newspaper report is unfounded.

The members of the National Assembly are too well informed of the provisions of the Constitution to assert that they have any right thereunder to propose who are to be appointed justices of the peace, much less to claim that only men of their choice be appointed. You and the other members of the National Assembly who were members of the Constitutional Convention, know that the Constitutional Convention wanted the Chief Executive to be free from political influence in making appointments, especially for the Judiciary—high and low. The members of the Convention had seen the evil effects of the old system whereby senators were practically allowed to dictate who should be justices of the peace in their senatorial districts. For this reason they changed the wording of the Constitution of the United States regarding appointments in incorporating the same into ours, and required not the advice but only the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments.

If there is anything that permits of no doubt as to the purpose of the Constitution, it is certainly in its intent to establish an independent judiciary, absolutely and completely divorced from politics. As a matter of fact, I know from personal and direct information that many members of the Constitutional Convention were interested in this subject more than in any other, and, strange as it may seem, some such members were farmers—not lawyers. These men were so bent upon giving the country an independent judiciary that they even opposed any intervention of the Commission on Appointments in appointments to judicial positions. Moreover, our platform commits every one of us to the same principles and ideals promulgated by the Constitution in this respect.

There is no use talking of improving the administration of justice if the justices of the peace are to be appointed through political patronage. For ninety per cent of our population, the justice of the peace court is the only court to which they can appeal for the protection of their rights and the redress of their grievances. So long as the justice of the peace knows that his appointment and retention in the service depends upon the good graces of some influential politicians, so long will he be subservient to the will of these politicians. In a way, it is more important to have good and independent judges in the justice of the peace courts than in the Courts of First Instance. The litigants that go the Courts of First Instance have the mean to take up their cases to the highest tribunal of the land. If they suffer from the incompetence or dismissal honesty of a Judge of the Court of First Instance, they can get redress from the higher courts; but the poor man who is the victim of an incompetent or dishonest justice of the peace has usually no other recourse but to suffer the injustice or abuse of which he is a victim.

Under these circumstances, I would be the most faithless Chief Executive were I to permit that my appointments to the judiciary be subjected to political pressure in any way.

I have done what I could properly do to show the members of the National Assembly my regard for their views and my desire to give to their recommendations due weight. Before finally making my appointments to the Court of Appeals I called in the members of the Commission on Appointments present in Manila and asked them if they had any valid objection to the men I was considering to appoint, or, if they could suggest better men. In personal conference with members of the National Assembly, I requested them to make to me or to the Secretary of Justice some suggestions as to who are the present justices of the peace in their districts that should, or should not, be retained, and who should be appointed in their places. I made it plain to them that I was not interested in any one person, but in finding the best man in every case. I have sought equally the advice of provincial governors, provincial commanders of the Constabulary, prominent citizens, provincial fiscals, members of the Bar and, of course, the judges of the Courts of First Instance and even justices of the Supreme Court in an effort to get every possible information before making appointments. But it is one thing to have the views of the members of the National Assembly, and give them such consideration as in my own judgment they deserve, and entirely another thing for them to claim that I may only appoint those whom they recommend. Were I to recognize such right I would not only violate the Constitution, but also my determination to give the country the best possible judiciary might easily be frustrated. This I will not permit to happen.

Life, property rights, the very happiness and welfare of our people, will depend largely upon the kind of men I appoint to the Bench. The responsibility for all appointments is mine as Chief Executive, and of no one else, and God helping me, I shall perform it to the best of my ability without fear or favor. The Commission on Appointments has the right to reject my appointments. When the time comes for the Commission to perform its duty, I feel confident it will perform it in the same manner and spirit as I propose to perform mine.

Thanking you for your telegram above alluded to, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
National
Manila

Jose

E.

Romero
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on immediate return of bills referred to the departments for comment and recommendation, July 16, 1936 LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

IMMEDIATE RETURN OF BILLS REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENTS FOR COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

[July 16, 1936]

The
The
Manila

Secretary

of

the

Honorable
Interior

Sir:

In a conference I held today with members of the National Assembly, I was informed of the need that is being felt by the committees and members of the said Body for technical advice on the bills that are prepared by them or are presented for their consideration. I was also informed that many of these bills are being referred to the executive departments of the Government for their comment and recommendation.

In order that the bills before the National Assembly and the committees thereof may be acted upon with due promptness, I wish to request that any bill which may be referred to your department by the National Assembly be returned to the same with your action thereon within a period of not more than six days from the date of the receipt thereof by your department.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Similar letters sent to:

Secretary				of			Finance
Secretary				of			Justice
Secretary		of		Agriculture		and	Commerce
Secretary	of		Public	Works		and	Communications
Secretary		of			Public		Instruction
Secretary of Labor							

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on recommendations of the League of Provincial Governors on appointment of Mr. Maximino Noble as Governor of Camarines Sur, July 26, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCIAL
GOVERNORS ON APPOINTMENT OF MR. MAXIMINO
NOBLE AS GOVERNOR OF CAMARINES SUR**

[July 26, 1936]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The resolution of the League of Provincial Governors which you forwarded to this office, recommending the appointment of Mr. Maximino Noble, member of the Provincial Board of Camarines Sur, as Governor of the province has been submitted to me. Please inform the Provincial Governors that I consider their action not very much to credit of their League. It is evident that this recommendation could not have been based upon full knowledge of the facts connected with the administration of the Province of Camarines Sur and which would justify an expression of the League's opinion as to who is the best qualified for the position of Governor of the province. The resolution would give the public the impression that the League of Provincial Governors has been organized for the purpose of promoting personal or political interests among its members. The League would certainly be a helpful organization if instead of approving resolutions of this nature it devoted itself to the study of ways and means whereby the Provincial Governors could help one another and the National Government in the promotion of the public weal.

Perhaps this would be a good opportunity for me to say that, while I welcome recommendations and suggestions from any quarter in connection with appointments to public office, I shall not be guided or influenced by the simple consideration as to who is asking the appointments or what organization is behind them; that in every case, the recommendations will be only useful if made upon the basis of the personal information of the persons or organizations making them relative to the qualification and fitness of those considered for appointment which would justify the Executive in giving weight to the recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.		Elpidio		Quirino
Secretary	of		the	Interior
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Confirmation of Appointments, July 3, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Confirmation of Appointments**

[Released on July 3, 1936]

My dear Mr. Chairman:

My attention has been called to Article XV of the proposed rules of the Commission on Appointments wherein following paragraph appears:

“When three members state in writing the ground of their objection to an appointment before it is brought up for consideration by the Commission, the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of Commission shall be necessary to confirm such appointment.”

It is my opinion that the rule above quoted is in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution in that it requires in a given case two-thirds vote of all the members of the Commission on Appointments to confirm an appointment. The Constitution only provides that the Commission on Appointments shall consists of twenty-one members and that the appointments made by the President shall be subject to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments. The Constitution does not require a two-thirds vote in any case for the confirmation of an appointment. It is a well-established rule that when the law grants power to a body composed of more than two members and does not specify the votes required for the exercise of that power, the power is to be exercised by the majority of the members composing that body. Thus, in the case of the National Assembly, the Constitution in conferring all the legislative power upon that body, does not specifically state by what vote that power is to be exercised, except in the case of overriding a presidential veto when it expressly requires a two-thirds vote. Under the general accepted principles of law all bills, in order to pass the Assembly, have to be approved by a majority of the members of the National Assembly, and no more. You will agree with me, I am sure, that it is beyond the power of the Assembly to provide, through its rules, that a bill, in order to become a law, has to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly if and when a certain number of the members of the Assembly so request. If any such rule were to be approved by the Assembly, it would be null and void, for whenever a majority of the members of the Assembly agree to pass a bill, that bill unless vetoed by the President, becomes a law. By analogy since the Constitution does not require two-thirds vote of the Commission on Appointments for the confirmation of appointments, a majority of the members of the Commission on Appointments is all that is required, and not more, to confirm an appointment.

In further justification of this view, I may add that when the Constitution requires a specific number of votes in excess of the usual majority, it expressly so provides. In granting the power of impeachment to the Commission on Impeachment, it expressly requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission for the exercise of that power, so that a majority of the members can not impeach or can not exercise the power of impeachment.

I hope neither you nor the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly will consider this letter as an undue interference on the part of the Chief Executive in the exercise of your power of confirmation. The power of confirmation affects the exercise of the executive power of appointment, and in order to avoid any possible conflict in the future as to the interpretation of the acts of the Commission on Appointments over appointments made by the Chief Executive, I feel justified in making this representation to you and, through you, to the Commission. I can easily conceive of a case where three members of the Commission on Appointments may submit in writing their objection to a given appointment, and that when the appointment is put to a vote, a majority of the members present confirms the appointment. Under the rules referred to, the Commission on Appointments would not consider the action of the majority in approving the appointment as sufficient to confirm it, for under the rules, two-thirds vote would be required. In such a case when the appointment is returned to the Chief Executive with the information that it has not been confirmed because the required two-thirds vote did not concur in the appointment, the Chief

Executive would have to consider the appointment as confirmed under the Constitution, and would, therefore, feel constrained to issue the commission in view of the fact that a majority of them, not two-thirds, have concurred in the appointment. It is only in the desire of cooperating with the Commission Appointments and avoiding any possible misunderstanding that I am placing my view before the Commission.

With assurances of my personal and official regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon. Benigno S. Aquino
Chairman of the Commission on Appointments
National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter from the President of the Philippines to Hon. Apolonio D. Curato: Powers of the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

Letter from the President of the Philippines to
Hon. Apolonio D. Curato
Powers of the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu

[July 28, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Curato:

In reference to the bill now in your Committee to abolish the Bureau of non-Christian Tribes, there seems to be some misunderstanding as to my attitude on the subject. A few days ago Assemblymen Cabili and Ombra came to see me and asked me if I had any objection to the granting of powers to the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu to act without the necessity of previous consultation with Manila, and I expressed the opinion that I did not have any objection thereto; on the contrary, that the purpose sought by the Administration in recommending the creation of this post of Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu was to have a responsible official stationed in Mindanao, who could act and carry out the program for the development of Mindanao as conceived by the National Government without unnecessary delay. However, my attention has been called to the amendment which has been introduced to the bill and I find serious objection to that amendment, for it means the creation of a new department in the Government and the establishment in Mindanao of a government different from every other government established in the rest of the Archipelago. I think the government of Mindanao and Sulu should continue under the Department of the Interior as every other government in the Islands is under the existing laws. But the Commissioner may be given powers through administrative policy to act without the necessity of constantly having to seek the approval of the authorities in Manila for everything that he does or of making previous consultation before taking any action at all.

If your Committee so desires I shall be very glad to have a conference with you and the members of the Committee formally or informally, either in my office at the Executive Building or in my office at the Legislative Building, at the Committee's convenience; the date and time for the conference to be previously agreed upon between us.

Very sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**

Letter of President Quezon on allowance for clerk hire of assemblymen, July 28, 1936

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
ALLOWANCE FOR CLERK HIRE OF ASSEMBLYMEN

[July 28, 1936]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

There have appeared in the local press from time to time some articles insinuating, and even asserting directly, that the members of the National Assembly are not only receiving the salary provided for them in the Constitution, but are also receiving the allowance for their clerks. I have required of the Auditor General to give me a memorandum as to the facts in the case and I take pleasure in enclosing herewith the memorandum of the Auditor, which is self-explanatory.

It is not only because I have assumed a joint responsibility with the National Assembly in approving the appropriation for clerk hire for members of that Body that I am interested in placing these facts before the public; but it is also for the purpose of doing justice to the members of that Body and to maintain in the public esteem the high regard and respect which is due the members of one of the three coordinate branches of the Government.

Democracy is doomed to failure whenever the people feel no respect for their own representatives in the Government. And it should be remembered that it is less a reflection upon the officials themselves as it is upon the electorate, if the character of said representatives is not what it should be, for it is the electorate that choose them. Public officials deserve more respect and deference from the people in a democracy than in any other form of government, for the authority of these officials emanates from the people themselves.

These thoughts occur to me as I see with misgivings indications that we are beginning to follow the practice in other countries of speaking disparagingly of the members of the legislative branch of the Government. It does not kid fair of the future of democracy in the Philippines if we were to adopt this practice, and it is time that we should call a halt thereto, if it is our conviction that democracy is the best form of government so far devised by human ingenuity, and it is our desire to perpetuate it in our country. Let the people be jealous and vigilant of the conduct of their public servants. Let them bring to the bar of justice or of public opinion every official or employee who falls short of the requirements of his position. But so long as these officials and employees are equal to their trust, they deserve every consideration from the public.

Very respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.		Gil		Montilla
Speaker	of	the	National	Assembly
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on refusing to grant pardon to a prisoner, July 30, 1936

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
REFUSING TO GRANT PARDON TO A PRISONER

[July 30, 1936]

My esteemed Governor:

I have personally read the record of criminal case No. 7029, of the Court of First Instance of against Miguel Suayan and Rafael Suayan. I am absolutely convinced that the witnesses for the defense did not testify the truth. I am also convinced that Rafael Suayan was the aggressor and that his brother, Miguel Suayan, although he caused the death of Aurelio de la Luna, took part in the affray only in order to help his brother.

I promised you I would pardon Rafael Suayan when you assured me that the case had been decided against Rafael Suayan by five against four justices in the Supreme Court, being under the impression that in this case five justices had held that Rafael Suayan was guilty while the other four had maintained the contrary. This, however, is not the case; the justices were unanimous in judging the differed as to whether Rafael Suayan was guilty of homicide or merely of injuries. After studying the case, I have come to conclusion that this difference of opinion is a mere legal technicality, as to me it appears evident that, while it cannot be affirmed that Rafael Suayan, when he began to assault the deceased, intended to kill him, yet, when Rafael Suayan struck the deceased with a club although he was already wounded, it was his intention to kill him. If Rafael Suayan is not guilty of the crime of homicide, he is, in my judgment, at least guilty of frustrated homicide, a crime to which a more severe penalty attaches than to the crime of which the dissenting opinion of the Supreme Court finds him guilty, and that Penalty would require a longer period in prison than that which he has already served.

It is the duty of the Chief Executive, in granting pardons, to consider details and circumstances attending the commission of a crime which courts cannot consider under the law. The pardoning power is conferred upon the Chief Executive in order that the supreme interests of justice may be served when, in a concrete case, the law has not been able to serve them. How could the pardon of Rafael Suayan be justified in the present case? What moral purpose, what reason of equity could prompt the Chief Executive to pardon him?

The record of the case shows that the deceased suspected Rafael Suayan of having participated in the abduction of the daughter of the deceased. Rafael Suayan's conduct towards the deceased, from the moment that he learned that Aurelio de la Luna suspected him, and his assault upon the latter on the day of the crime, show that Rafael Suayan is a citizen who is a menace to society, and that it is necessary that he be made to feel the full weight of the law in order that he may mend his ways and become a peaceable and orderly citizen.

In view of these circumstances I regret to have to deny the pardon requested by you, at least for the present.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Establishment of Minimum Wage for Laborers of the Government, August 5, 1936

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
**ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE FOR LABORERS
OF THE GOVERNMENT**

[August 5, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Magalona:

Your letter recommending that I order the immediate establishment of a minimum wage for all laborers employed on works of the national, provincial, and municipal governments has just been submitted to me, and in reply thereto, I desire to inform you that I have had this matter under consideration for quite some time and that on my last trip to Davao, in answer to a petition of the laborers of that city, I assured them that I would establish a minimum wage for all laborers of the National Government its political divisions and dependencies. However, so far it has not been possible to establish a minimum wage, because I do not believe that the same minimum wage can or should be established for all provinces or localities of the Archipelago nor for all work in which such laborers are engaged. Many factors have to be taken into consideration in establishing the minimum wage such as the cost of living in each locality, the financial situation of each province, and the work which the laborer is doing. As to the rest, I am absolutely in favor of a minimum wage affording a decent living to the laborer. Since I have assumed the office of President I have considered it as one of the inescapable duties of this Government to secure reasonable wages for the laborers.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.			Enrique			Magalona
Assemblyman				Occidental		Negros
Chairman	of	for	the	Committee	on	Labor
National						Assembly
Manila						

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Payment of Inheritance Tax by religious organizations, August 10, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On payment of Inheritance Tax by Religious Organizations**

[Released on August 10, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Kalaw:

Regarding the inheritance tax bill, information has come to me to the effect that there is the impression amongst some members of the National Assembly that I am interested in having exempted from the payment of inheritance tax legacies or donations *mortis causa* to charitable, educational or religious corporations. I wish to inform you that I have not authorized anybody to speak for me in this respect, and moreover I see no reason why there should be made exceptions. As you know, the Government of the Philippine Islands appropriates funds for charitable and educational institutions, and, therefore, the taxes levied on the inheritance that go to charitable or educational institutions are in fact devoted to the same kind of institutions when they are paid to the Government, the only difference being that when the tax is paid to the Government no money is spent without discrimination in favor of any one particular institution.

Now as for the inheritance tax that may go to a religious organization: The religious organizations are already exempted from the payment of taxes on their properties that are devoted exclusively to worship, but religious organizations may and do have properties that are not exclusively devoted to worship, and to exempt these donations from the payment of inheritance taxes we may exempt religious organizations from paying tax on the property which is not primarily devoted to worship. Then again, if it is devoted to worship, once the donation has been devoted to this end, from that time it will be exempted from taxes.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Chairman,
National
Manila

Ways

Maximo
and

Means

Kalaw
Committee
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Creation of a Department of Public Health, September 2, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

[September 2, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Villarama:

Although I have been informed that your Committee on Public Health has already agreed to report favorably on the bill creating a Department of Health, and although the Secretary of Public instruction has advised me that the report of the Survey Board was read to the Committee when he appeared before it in connection with the said bill, I feel that I should let you have a copy of the report in order that you may give it further consideration. Should you find it convenient, copies of the said report may be furnished to every member of your Committee.

I have noticed, after carefully studying the report of the Survey Board, that it does not give sufficient emphasis to the advantage of having the Bureau of Education and the Bureau of Health under the same Department and I should like to elaborate further on this phase of the question.

The ultimate success of the work of the Bureau of Health will depend upon how effectively we may instruct our people so that they may practise in their daily conduct sound principles of personal and community hygiene. The prevention of a disease can only be accomplished if the individual is taught the means or the manner whereby such disease may be avoided. This instruction can be given most effectively in the schools. Instruction concerning health and sanitation must be given in the early years of the individual, so that he may practice what he learns and this practice may become a habit. In this connection, I may state in passing that I know personally of a case where a public health officer despite his theoretical knowledge did not live in accordance with the ordinary requirements of hygiene. This is certainly due to the fact that he had acquired certain improper habits in his youth which all the knowledge that he had learned could not eradicate. If the Secretary of Public Instructions is in charge of and is responsible for both education and health, his interest in the health activities will be at least as great as his interest in the other activities of his Department and he will naturally see to it that the schools through the instruction given to the pupils on health and sanitation give as much support as possible to the health work. If and when a separate Department of Public Health is created, no matter how earnestly the Secretary of Health is created, no matter how earnestly the Secretary of Health may appeal to the Secretary of Public Instruction for his cooperation, it will be very hard, considering human nature, to find in the Secretary of Public Instruction the same interest in this work that he would naturally have if he were responsible for its success.

I wish to be candid with the Committee and state frankly that at one time I considered the advisability of creating a separate Department of Health. When two years ago, we knew that a new government was to be inaugurated in our country under the control of a Filipino Executive, those government activities that may directly or indirectly have some effect in our international relation drew my immediate attention and interest for I felt that the new government could not afford, in any way, to fail in the administration of the bureaus concerned without giving occasion to serious criticism that would affect the good name of the new government abroad. So I thought that since the question of keeping the Philippines in perfect sanitary condition was a matter that, in a way, may affect our international relation because of foreign travel in these Islands, I had the idea that perhaps the way to exercise effective control over public sanitation was through the creation of a separate Department of Health.

Since assuming my office, however, I have given this matter continued study and have had exhaustive discussions with the Chairman of the Survey Board. I have further observed as carefully as I could the manner in which the different branches of our Government are functioning and I am now convinced that the Secretary of Public Instruction can properly attend to the activities concerning health and sanitation without affecting adversely the performance of his duties in connection with public instruction.

It should also be remembered that we are committed to the policy of establishing an economic and simple government, and this commitment makes it imperative that we do not increase the present number of departments unless it is clearly seen beyond question that it would be in the interest of the public service to create a new department. As a matter of fact, I feel that if we reduce the number of the departments, we would only be performing our pre-election pledge, but I have very serious doubts whether this can be done at this time without imposing upon the Secretaries of Department responsibilities that are beyond their physical capacity to meet.

I hope that with the foregoing considerations I may convince you and your Committee that action on the bill creating a new Department of Health should be at least deterred so as to give this new Government time to show conclusively that the present arrangement of having both the Bureau of Health and the Bureau of Education under one department is entirely satisfactory and can accomplish what is sought by your Committee through the creation of a new department.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Chairman,
National
Manila

Antonio
Committee

on

Villarama
Health
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on nondesignation of Undersecretaries as Acting Secretaries of Departments,
September 2, 1936**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Nondesignation of Undersecretaries as Acting Secretaries of Departments**

[Released on September 2, 1936]

My dear Chairman Aquino:

A member of the Commission on Appointments has inquired as to the reasons why Under-Secretary De la Cruz has not been appointed Acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications, with a view to ascertaining whether this was due to my lack of confidence in Mr. De la Cruz. In answer to the query I stated, and I hereby state for your information and that of the Commission, that as a matter of policy I do not intend to designate as Acting Secretaries of Department the Under-Secretaries whenever there is a vacancy in the post of Secretary of Department, because this is a political post and it should not be filled by non-political appointees. The Secretaries of Department are a part of the policy-determining body of the Executive, while the Under-Secretaries are purely and exclusively administrative officials. The law authorizes the Chief Executive, in case of a vacancy in the position of the Department Head, either to assume for himself the portfolio or to designate one of the other Secretaries of Department as Acting Secretary for the vacant Department.

As far as my confidence in Under-Secretary De la Cruz is concerned, I desire to inform you most emphatically that he enjoys my full and complete confidence.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Chairman,
National
Manila

Benigno
Commission

S.
on

Aquino
Appointments
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon upon Signing a Bill amending the Public Land Law, September 8, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

SIGNING A BILL AMENDING THE PUBLIC LAND LAW

[September 8, 1936]

Sir:

I wish to inform you that I have today signed Bill No. 86, entitled "An Act to amend sections thirty-four, thirty-six, and thirty-seven of Act Numbered Twenty-eight hundred and seventy-four known as "The Public Land Act," which was passed during the present session of the National Assembly. As this measure proposes, among others, to liberalize the provisions of the Public Land Law by increasing the area which may be leased for grazing purposes from 1,024 hectares to 2,000 hectares, it is with reluctance that I have signed the bill, firmly believing in the limitation requirements of the Public Land Law which restrict public landholdings to areas of limited sizes are, in my opinion, wholesome, as the spirit animating the enactment of public land legislation has always been to encourage the distribution of the great portion of our public domain to the greatest number of our people, and to prevent the concentration of big landed estates in the hands of a few individuals. However, taking into consideration the fact that greater impetus must be given towards the development of the cattle industry in this country by allowing it greater areas for expansion, and also considering that the disposition of the lands contemplated in the bill will be made by lease only and not by permanent alienation of the land to the grantees, it is believed that the advantages to accrue from the enactment of this bill into law would offset any objection that may be raised against it.

In enforcing the provisions of this law, it is desired that you take into consideration the instructions issued by this Office on July 29, 1936, to the effect that small land-holdings be interspersed between large areas of public land which are applied for for pasture purposes either under the Forest Law or the Public Land Law. As states in those instructions, the reason for following such policy is to prevent the pasture permittees or lessees from extending their holdings, thereby avoiding the clandestine occupation of big areas of public land in violation of the area requirements of the Public Land Law and the Forest Law, and also to provide available areas for small pasture land-holdings.

It is also desired that, as a matter of principle, persons who have violated any provision of the Public Land Law or the Forest Law should not be allowed to be benefited by the provisions of this Act. However, in the event that a pasture permittee or applicant has unknowingly or unwillfully violated any provision of the Public Land Law or the Forest Law, or in cases where the principles of equity may be invoked, no pasture applicant or permittee should be held or occupied by him excess of the area originally allowed under the Public Land Act, until and unless the said applicant or permittee has first paid to the Government all the back rentals corresponding to the period of his occupation of the excess area.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
The Secretary of Agriculture and Honorable
Manila Commerce

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Effectivity of the Chinese Bookkeeping Law, September 14, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

EFFECTIVITY OF THE CHINESE BOOKKEEPING LAW

[September 14, 1936]

My dear Mr. Speaker:
With reference to Bill No. 67 of the National Assembly, entitled—

“An Act to amend section two of Act Numbered Thirty-two hundred and ninety-two, as amended by section one of Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and seventy-six, by requiring that the entries in journals and ledgers kept in a language other than a native language, English or Spanish shall be translated into a native language, English or Spanish, by the bookkeeper or manager who shall certify under oath as to the correctness of said translation,”

I beg to inform you that after the bill had been finally passed by the National Assembly, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce addressed me a request that the taking effect the said bill be postponed so as to give them time to comply the requirements of the law without unnecessary and unreasonable burden upon the Chinese business community. After hearing the views of the Secretary of Finance, I am of the opinion that it will be a gracious, if not a fair act on the part of the National Assembly to grant the petition of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and I so earnestly recommend to your honorable Body.

It is well known that the Chinese business community has in the past fought strenuously former attempts of the Legislature to enact similar legislation, and at one time, they even took the matter up to the Supreme Court of the United States and succeeded in having that Court declare unconstitutional the law passed by the Legislature. I do not entertain the slightest doubt as to the constitutionality of the bill which has been approved by the Assembly and to which I have referred, and I am pleased to see that contrary to their former attitude, the Chinese community now recognizes the need of this legislation from the standpoint of the Government and, therefore, justifies it. Thus, they are showing a very commendable spirit of cooperation with the Government of the Commonwealth.

It is my belief that a wise policy for any government to adopt is that of tempering firmness with reasonable regard for the sentiments and views of those affected by a given legislation whenever it may do so without detriment to public interest. It is not only the right but also it is the duty of the Government of the Commonwealth to make sure that its laws are obeyed and the taxes that it imposes are paid by those under the law to pay them. This is the objective of the bill I am discussing. Whether true this country that some Chinese merchants are able to evade the payment of certain taxes by keeping their commercial books in Chinese, and it is not only the interest of the Government but also in the interest of the Chinese business men themselves that such an impression be definitely erased, and I am glad to find that the Chinese community has taken this view of this question.

I can see, however, the difficulties that may arise in certain cases where it may be beyond the power of the parties concerned to secure the personnel necessary to translate into English or Spanish the commercial books as required in Bill 67, and for this reason, I shall be agreeable to an amendment of this bill, making it effective one or two years after passage. Should the Assembly be willing to take this same attitude, I hope it may find it convenient to withdraw the bill from me and reconsider it and insert therein that suggested amendment. I am suggesting this

procedure for if I were to return the bill without petition on the part of the Assembly, that would mean that I have vetoed this measure, which I cannot do.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
The
Manila

Speaker,

National

Honorable
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Replacement of Coastwise Vessels in the Philippines, September 15, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**REPLACEMENT OF COASTWISE VESSELS
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

[September 15, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Kintanar:

I beg to enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by the representative of the Compañía Tabacalera in Manila, which is self-explanatory. As far as this Office is concerned, we find no valid objection to the petition of the assistant general manager of said company. It is the present policy of the Government of the Philippines, which is undoubtedly a very good policy, not to allow any vessel to engage in the coastwise trade unless it is owned by Filipinos or/and Americans or by corporation, 75 per cent at least of the capital stock of which is owned by Filipinos or/and Americans. This policy is in line with that of most of the progressive countries in the world today.

However, I do not see that the request made by the Compañía Tabacalera, if granted, would contravene the intents and purposes of section 1172 of the Administrative Code, as amended by Act No. 3084, defining the ownership of vessels for the coastwise trade, as the Compañía Tabacalera, under said Act, has the right to salvage the hull of "ISIDORO PONTS" and rebuild it and place it again in the coastwise trade. What the Tabacalera proposes is in the public interest, for it simply requests that, instead of salvaging the hull of "ISIDORO PONTS," it be allowed to substitute said vessel with another newly constructed boat to be so fitted that it may be used by the Government in case of need for transportation of troops and supplies. And besides, this substitute boat, being new, would afford greater comfort and safety to the travelling public and cargo.

Everybody knows that inter-island shipping in this country is not as it may be desired. Our ships, in a large majority of cases, are old and lack modern conveniences and devices that would not only insure safety but also afford comfort in sea voyage. I would not place myself in a position of laying obstacles to the improvement of our inter-island service. If the Tabacalera were asking for the building of a new ship in addition to its present fleet, I would oppose it for it would violate not only the letter but also the spirit of our shipping laws. Such is not the case, however, as stated before.

Furthermore, we should take into consideration that under the present law, we cannot prevent the Tabacalera from salvaging the hull of the "ISIDORO PONTS" and rebuilding it, in which case the result will be that instead of having a new ship that would be in a position to render the Government a good service in time of need and improve the inter-island shipping, it will only mean one more addition to the old ships that we have in the coastwise trade. Perhaps it would also be well for the shipping interests in the Philippines who are now enjoying the privilege of the Protection afforded them under our shipping laws, to know that we will only be very rigid in our stand against such requests, as made in the accompanying letter of the Tabacalera when those companies enjoying protection under the law have made every effort within their means to provide the country with more appropriate ships.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Chairman,
National Assembly

Agustin
Committee

Y.
on

Kintanar
Navigation

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Disposition of certain Mining Claims, September 26, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN MINING CLAIMS

[SEPTEMBER 26, 1936]

My dear Judge DeWitt:

I have read your letter of September the 25th

Since to a large extent, perhaps, I am responsible for the attitude taken by the majority to the Members of the Committee on Mines, with reference to the mines that were located, but not patented before the inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth, I desire to express succinctly the reason for my position.

I deem it the duty of the Chief Executive, and in fact of every one of the three branches of this Government, as well as of every official thereof, to carry out and execute faithfully not only the letter but also the spirit of the Constitution, and whenever there is the slightest doubt as to the scope of any of its provisions, to solve that in favor of the plain intent, or the known intent, of the makers of the Constitution. Although I have not been a member of the Constitutional Assembly, I can truthfully say that I am as well informed as anybody else of the purposes and objectives and the reasons behind the important provisions of the Constitution. I am positive that the Constitutional Assembly wanted to reserve to the State the ownership of all mines of every kind in the Philippines and that they would have given retroactive effect to that provision, even in the case of mines which have been patented, had they been sure that this could be done without violating well known and accepted principles and rules regarding property and vested right in a society, generally known as capitalistic. *It is because every member of the Constitutional Assembly believed in property rights as one of the basic foundation of organized society and enlightened government, that every section in the Constitution which deals with property, whether belonging to the state or to an individual, contains a saving clause that vested rights be respected.*

Now, the question to which your letter refers is a question which has been dealt with by the Constitution in accordance with the above principles, and in my opinion it is for the courts to determine, not for us—either the Executive or Legislative Department—what, in the case of mineral lands, have passed out of the public domain and therefore no longer subject to the provisions of the Constitution as to their disposition. In reference to those mining claims already patented, there is not the slightest question that they have become private property, and under the saving clause of the Constitution they are not included among those mining properties of the State which can only be leased. But as to the mines that have not been patented, despite your very illuminating memorandum, I am not prepared to say that the provisions of the Constitution do not reach them. I am sure that the makers of the Constitution did intend to reach them if they were not subject to vested rights that the Constitution could not deprive them of. It is, therefore, for the courts to determine whether or not mining claims which have not been patented may be disposed of as the Constitution provides in the same manner as those which have not been located prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth.

Neither the Executive nor the Legislative Department of this Government desires to deprive anybody of rights granted him by the Constitution. But neither the Executive nor the Legislative Department of this Government, I hold, ought to recognize or grant rights which the Constitution did not intend to grant. After all, no irreparable

damage could be done in this case if the Assembly should take the stand we propose to take, for those who would feel that their rights have been violated may go to the courts. It is the courts, of course, that should settle the question.

But supposing that, the Assembly provided that such mining claims which have been located prior to the approval of the Constitution, but which have not been patented, belong to the locators, and six years hence a new Chief Executive and a new Assembly opine just the opposite, and they order the Department of Justice to institute proceedings against the locators of the mines, and the courts decide that the law which granted them these rights was unconstitutional, for under the terms of the Constitution those mines could only be leased. Then, if that be the case, an irreparable harm and damage may be done to the locators if the Government, in taking possession of those mines, should demand, in leasing them out, such conditions as will compel the locators to give up entirely the working of those mines, with the consequent loss of the improvements that they have built thereon. You will see, therefore that in taking the stand that I am taking, I am inspired not only by my determination to be faithful to the purpose of the Constitution, but by my desire as well to prevent those who have invested in the Philippine Islands in good faith from suffering irreparable harm in the future by reason of such short-sighted legislation as we may enact.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon. Clyde A. DeWitt
Heacock Building
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on immediate consideration of important bills, October 1, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On immediate consideration of important bills**

[Delivered on October 1, 1936]

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In connection with my letter to you, dated September 23, 1936, it is requested that the following bills be also considered during the present session of the National Assembly:

- (1) An Act to define the powers of the provincial sheriff and of the courts in connection with the removal of improvements in ejectment cases, and for other purposes. (Copy attached.)
- (2) An Act to extend to all forms of associations the restrictions-limitations, and prohibitions of existing laws upon corporations, and for other purposes. (Copy attached.)
- (3) *Bill No. 1515*.—An Act to coordinate the information and publicity agencies of the Government, provide funds therefor, and for other purposes.
- (4) An Act transferring to the Secretary of Finance the powers and supervision heretofore exercised by the Secretary of the Interior over the financial affairs and financial agencies of provincial, municipal, and city governments. (Copy attached; covered by special message of September 29, 1936.)
- (5) An Act authorizing the transfer of any amount from one provincial fund to another whenever the public interests so require. (Copy attached.)
- (6) An Act creating the City of Cebu.
- (7) An Act creating the City of Iloilo.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The Honorable
The Speaker, National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on postponement of election of Provincial Governors, October 2, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On postponement of election of Provincial Governors**

[Delivered on October 2, 1936]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from the Secretary the Interior, recommending that the Assembly enact a law postponing the elections of the provincial governors. I am in favor of this measure. We have been having too many elections during the last four years, and I hope that the Assembly may find its way to enact such legislation.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Speaker,
Manila

Gil
National

Montilla
Assembly

“October 2, 1936

Sir:

Since the general elections of 1934 to date, four elections have already taken place; namely, the general elections of 1934, the elections for the Constitutional Assembly, plebiscite on the Constitution and the Commonwealth elections, all of which have cost the Insular and local governments the total amount of P2,226,690.07. Next April there will be a plebiscite for the woman suffrage in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 34. Under the present Election Law, the general elections for local officials will also take place next June, and in 1938 there will again be an election for members of the National Assembly, unless the bill now approved by the National Assembly on second reading fixing the date of the regular session of the Assembly to October 16 will effect the postponement of the latter election to probably 1939. If the 1937 elections for local officials are not postponed, there will be another general election for them in June 1940; and in 1941 the presidential elections will take place. Within the next four years, therefore, there will be five successive elections which will mean to the national and local treasuries an expenditure of approximately P3,693,459.60. Adding this amount to the amount of P2,226,690.07 already spent since 1934, we will have spent up to and including the presidential elections of 1941 a total outlay of P5,920,149.67 for elections only within a period of seven years.

From the point of view of the cost of elections, therefore, it would seem that some arrangement should be adopted whereby we could make some of these five elections coincide in order to effect economies both to the national and to the local treasuries. As a measure of immediate economy, it would be more convenient to postpone the general elections of 1937 to coincide with any other subsequent election, say, with the next elections for members of the National Assembly, and thereby eliminate the two general elections of 1937 and 1940 as separate elections for local officials. This will not only mean a substantial saving in the local funds of over a million pesos which we urgently need for general development work, but will also avoid much of the political and even social agitation incidental to each election. This will also insure, I hope, not only a more stable state of peace in the country, but also peace of mind among our citizens at this period of intense preparation and execution of a great many of our national programs. Wherefore, I respectfully recommend that legislation be urged upon the National Assembly to the end

that the general elections for local officials in 1937 be postponed so as to make it coincide with any subsequent election.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO QUIRINO
Secretary

His Excellency
The President of the Philippines
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon to the Secretary of Interior on approval of Bill No. 264, consolidating all taxes in real property and the penalties thereon due but unpaid for the year 1935 and previous year, October 6, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL NO. 264, CONSOLIDATING ALL TAXES
ON REAL PROPERTY AND THE PENALTIES THEREON
DUE BUT UNPAID FOR THE YEAR 1935 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS**

[October 6, 1936]

Sir:

I wish to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 264, entitled "An Act to amend sections one, two, six, and seven of Act Numbered Four thousand one hundred and eighty-one, as amended, in order to consolidate all taxes on real property and the penalties thereon due but unpaid for the year nineteen hundred and thirty-five and previous years, to provide time and manner of payment of said taxes, and setting aside forfeitures heretofore effected," which became Commonwealth Act No. 35. It is with reluctance that I have signed this bill as I firmly believe that repeated extensions of time for the payment of taxes of any kind are conducive to further neglect on the part of taxpayers to comply with their taxes obligations.

In your memorandum, dated September 24, 1936, you have, however, made representations to the effect that the principal purpose of the bill is not to grant an extension of time in order to give property owners who failed to pay their taxes for 1935 and previous years another opportunity to enjoy the privileges of the consolidated account as to contemplated in the bill, but to correct deficiencies and defects which existed in the original law on account of which many taxpayers failed to take advantage of its provisions without any fault or negligence on their part. I understand that although the original law (Act No. 4181) was approved on December 7, 1934, the actual preparation of the lists of consolidated accounts of taxes covering several hundred thousand parcels of land and the compliance with other requirements consumed several months, as a result of which many taxpayers have not been able to take advantage of the provisions of said Act. I have, therefore, signed the bill in the belief that its approval would enable the carrying out of the policy laid down in Act No. 4181 of giving relief to real-estate owners whose properties have been forfeited to the Government due to circumstances beyond their control. I am informed that the approval of this bill would not adversely affect the present finances of the provinces and municipalities.

I wish to make it clear, however, that this will be the last time that I will sign a bill of this nature extending the time of payment of real property taxes. It is, therefore, desired that all the administrative requirements necessary for the proper enforcement of the law be promptly accomplished, with a view to giving the necessary relief intended in the law so that any failure on the part of delinquent property owners to take advantage of the provisions of this law would not be ascribed to any fault or delay on the part of the officials called upon to enforce it. It is also desired that no delinquent real-estate owner who has willfully violated the provisions of any tax law be given the privilege or right to take advantage of the provisions of the same.

I wish that the contents of this letter be circularized among the provincial governors and municipal presidents.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
The Secretary of the Honorable
Manila Interior

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon to the Secretary of Finance on approval of Bill No. 264, consolidating all taxes in real property and the penalties thereon due but unpaid for the year 1935 and previous year, October 6, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL NO. 264, CONSOLIDATING ALL TAXES
ON REAL PROPERTY AND THE PENALTIES THEREON
DUE BUT UNPAID FOR THE YEAR 1935 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS**

[October 6, 1936]

Sir:

I wish to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 264, entitled "An Act to amend sections one, two, six, and seven of Act Numbered Four thousand one hundred and eighty-one, as amended, in order to consolidate all taxes on real property and the penalties thereon due but unpaid for the year nineteen hundred and thirty-five and previous years, to provide time and manner of payment of said taxes, and setting aside forfeitures heretofore effected," which became Commonwealth Act No. 35. It is with reluctance that I have signed this bill as I firmly believe that repeated extensions of time for the payment of taxes of any kind are conducive to further neglect on the part of taxpayers to comply with their taxes obligations.

The Secretary of Interior, however, has made representations to the effect that the principal purpose of the bill is not to grant an extension of time in order to give property owners who failed to pay their taxes for 1935 and previous years another opportunity to enjoy the privileges of the consolidated account as contemplated in the bill, but to correct deficiencies and defects which existed in the original law on account of which many taxpayers failed to take advantage of its provisions without any fault or negligence on their part. I understand that although the original law (Act No. 4181) was approved on December 7, 1934, the actual preparation of the lists of consolidated accounts of taxes covering several hundred thousand parcels of land and the compliance with other requirements consumed several months, as a result of which many taxpayers have not been able to take advantage of the provisions of said Act. I have, therefore, signed the bill in the belief that its approval would enable the carrying out of the policy laid down in Act No 4181 of giving relief to real estate owners whose properties have been forfeited to the Government due to circumstances beyond their control. I am informed that the approval of this bill would not adversely affect the present finances of the provinces and municipalities.

I wish to make it clear, however, that this will be the last time that I will sign a bill of this nature extending the time of payment of real property taxes. It is, therefore, desired that all the administrative requirements necessary for the proper enforcement of the law be promptly accomplished, with a view to giving the necessary relief intended in the law so that any failure on the part of delinquent property owners to take advantage of the provisions of this law would not be ascribed to any fault or delay on the part of the officials called upon to enforce it. It is also desired that no delinquent real-estate owner who has willfully violated the provisions of any tax law be given the privilege or right to take advantage of the provisions of the same.

I wish that the contents of this letter be circularized among the provincial governors and municipal presidents.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
The
Manila

Secretary

of

Honorable
Finance

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on conferring of Filipino Citizenship upon Ex-Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison, October 6, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On conferring of Filipino Citizenship upon Ex-Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison**

[Released on October 6, 1936]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

Former Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison has expressed to me his desire to become a Filipino citizen. It appears, however, that under the present Naturalization Law he lacks the required residence to acquire Filipino citizenship.

It is not necessary for me to state that no American has contributed more to the cause of Philippine self-government and independence than the Honorable Francis Burton Harrison and that he deserves the eternal gratitude of our people. I feel that it would be a very gracious act on the part of the National Assembly if it should confer Filipino citizenship upon former Governor-General Harrison by special act, and I hereby beg to recommend that you preset this matter to the Assembly.

Very respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon. Gil Montilla
Speaker, National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on decree of General Amnesty to Political Offenders, October 9, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On decree of General Amnesty to Political Offenders**

[Released on October 9, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Perfecto:

In answer to your letter of October 7th, which I have before me, I have to say that I cannot at this juncture solicit from the National Assembly its concurrence to a decree of general amnesty to what might be called political offenders. You know that I have announced publicly a month ago my intention to grant amnesty to all who have committed such violations of our laws as may be termed political prior to the inauguration of the Commonwealth and solicit the concurrence of the National Assembly thereto. The events of the last few days which disclose the existence of concerted action on the part of some individuals to cause a general destruction of property by setting fires hereto with the use of bombs or otherwise, make me feel that the lawless elements of the community should be made to realize that the Government cannot countenance any such open defiance of its authority. The granting of a general amnesty at this time may be construed by these lawless elements as a tendency to treat leniently offenses of this nature, if not an indication of weakness, and for this reason, much to my regret, I am constrained to defer action on my announced intention to grant such general amnesty.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
National
Manila

Gregorio

Perfecto
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on the contemplated dissolution of the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Contemplated Dissolution of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

[Delivered on November 10, 1936]

Dear Madam:

My attention has been called to a news item published in a morning paper regarding a contemplated meeting of the Board of Directors of the S. P. C. A. to discuss the question of the dissolution of the Society upon the assumption that my approval of the bill recently passed by the National Assembly, withdrawing from the Society the power to appoint agents with authority to make arrests of violators of the law for the protection of animals and consequently reverting to the treasury all fines imposed for violations of said law, implies withdrawal of official support from the Society. I earnestly hope that the Society will not be solved just on this account.

I cannot understand why the Society, and for that matter anyone else, should imply from the enactment of this law, that official support has been withdrawn from the Society. In a public statement, I have explained why I felt it my duty to sign the bill. It is wrong in principle and dangerous in practice to leave in the hands of any private institution the enforcement of any law, especially when there is a punishment for the violation of said law. It is confession of either weakness or indifference, or both on the part of the Government not to enforce its own laws. The fact that similar laws exist in the United States and in England does not justify its existence here. That which is fundamentally wrong is not made right because first-class powers do it. The evident reason why it had to be done in America and in England is because cruelty to animals is a comparatively new moral concept amongst civilized peoples and the community in general has not been sufficiently educated to react strongly against it. Of course, this is true in the Philippines, more so than in England or America. But the remedy does not lie in placing the responsibility for enforcing the law in the hands of a private society, but rather in making the officials of the Government charged with the duty of enforcing the laws, comply strictly with their sworn duty, regardless of the indifferent or even hostile attitude of the general public.

As Chief Executive, it is my first and most important duty to execute the laws. And I shall enforce every law regardless of the attitude of the public thereto as long as they remain in the statute books. I cannot admit that any private society will be more interested than the Executive Department of this Government in the enforcement of our laws, including the one for the protection of animals.

I see that the Society has rendered other services besides capturing violators of the law, such as the maintenance of a hospital for taking care of sick animals. This is a service that the Society can and should continue to render. The Society can and should continue to render. The Society can also help Government agents to detect infractions of the law and bring offenders to the courts for punishment. And, most important of all, the Society's aims could best be served by disseminating information to the public so as to educate the people and inculcate in them that nobility of sentiment which insures the humane and kind treatment of all animals.

In closing I can assure you and your associates that with or without the Society I shall see to it that the law for the prevention of cruelty to animals is enforced in all its rigor: but I do hope that the Society will continue to cooperate and help the Government in this humane enterprise.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Mrs. Chairman, Society Manila for the P. Board Prevention of S. of Cruelty to Page Directors Animals

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon detailing Public Safety Commissioner Leon G. Guinto to the United States to study American police methods, November 24, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

**DETAILING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER LEON G. GUINTO
TO THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY AMERICAN POLICE
METHODS**

[November 24, 1936]

My dear Commissioner Guinto:

Commonwealth Act No. 88 provides for the organization of a state police covering the entire country out of the listing provincial, city and municipal forces. I wish this organization to be not only efficient and competent in the prevention and detection of crime as well as in the, arrest of offenders against the law, but also as a human institution that will be considered by the people as their friend in the administration of justice and the protection of their rights and property.

Having selected you for the important task of organizing and building up this new national agency for peace and order, I want you to thoroughly equip yourself for the work, and for this purpose I want you to go to the United States to study and acquaint yourself with the organization, training and equipment of American police forces, especially those in New York and Pennsylvania. You should, therefore, proceed without delay to Washington, D. C., reporting upon arrival to the Resident Commissioner and to the Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, who have been notified of your appointment as Commissioner of Public Safety and your assignment to the United States.

It is my desire that you attach yourself to duty with the police force of New York City for such period of time as may be necessary and afterwards proceed to Philadelphia to study the police system there. After you have made a thorough study of the subject you should return directly to the Philippines. It is not my desire to put a time limit on your detail in the United States, as I feel that you realize how important it is for you to be back as soon as possible in order that you may proceed with the task that has been entrusted to you. Upon your arrival here you should submit your recommendations in writing as to the type, strength, organization, pay and other pertinent data for the State Police of the Commonwealth.

* * * * *

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.		Leon		G.		Guinto
Commissioner			of	Public		Safety
(Through	the	Honorable,	the	Secretary	of	the
Manila						Interior)

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on disapproving Bill regarding salaries of officials and employees of the City of Baguio, November 29, 1936

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
**DISAPPROVING BILL REGARDING SALARIES OF OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF BAGUIO**

[November 29, 1936]

My dear Assemblyman Jose:

In connection with the National Assembly bill, entitled "An Act to amend Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Revised Administrative Code, by inserting between sections twenty-five hundred and forty-five and twenty-five hundred and forty-six, a new section to be known as section twenty-five hundred and forty-five-A, regarding salaries of officials and employees of the City of Baguio," I have read your letter dated October the 30th and your telegram to Secretary Vargas dated November the 23rd. I am very sorry to see that you have chosen to make this an issue between you and the Municipal Council of Baguio did not of its own accord express any opinion on the bill in question, but it felt obliged to do so, in view of the fact that my office asked for their opinion. It is to be presumed that every public official is acting in the public interest and therefore that you as a member of the National Assembly in presenting this bill, have done it honestly, believing that you were serving the interests of the City of Baguio, as well as of its inhabitants; so also may we presume of the members of the Municipal Council, in expressing their objection to the approval of the bill. The members of the Municipal Council did not impugn your motives or make any statement derogatory to your character, while you in your telegram to Secretary Vargas and in your letter to me have attacked the good name of the members of the City Council of Baguio. I have decided to disapprove the bill on the following grounds:

(a) Because I have approved already those bills in which you are interested that without any question were in the interest of the service, such, for instance, as the creation of the office of city attorney for Baguio and the municipal court for Baguio. It was evident that the growing importance of the City of Baguio demanded that it have its own city attorney independent of the provincial fiscal of the Mountain Province and that it have also a municipal court, instead of the justice of the peace court, with a jurisdiction and a salary greater than those the justice of the peace now has.

(b) Had you merely increased the salary of the Mayor, the City Treasurer, and the Auditor, I would have also approved the bill. But instead you have gone further and created new positions which, in my opinion, are not necessary for the present at least and would mean an unnecessary added burden to the city. Every one of these positions may be required three, four or five years from now and then if it appears evident that it is so required, the necessary legislation may be enacted. In spite of these objectionable features, I should have not vetoed the bill if the effects of the provision therein that no employee or laborer of the city will receive less than P30 a month had been nullified by the veto. Since this matter is covered by laws and executive orders already in force, the City of Baguio will pay not less than P30 a month for each of its employees and laborers even though I vetoed the bill.

It is needless for me to say, for everybody knows it to be so, that you are one of the members of the National Assembly on whose support I have greatly depended and whose cooperation I have greatly valued. You enjoy my entire confidence and whenever possible I have given your recommendations due consideration. I hope, therefore,

you will not take the veto of this bill as an evidence of lack of confidence in you or as supporting the City Council against you. I have considered the matter on its own merits, as clearly stated in this letter. It is well known in Baguio that I supported your candidacy and I have no cause to repeat it. But for the reasons above stated I simply feel that I can not authorize an added burden on the city treasury beyond what I have done in approving the bills which were presented by you and to which I have adverted.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
National
Manila

Felipe

E.

Jose
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on minimum wages for employees and laborers of the City of Baguio, November 29, 1936 LETTER*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**MINIMUM WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES AND LABORERS
OF THE CITY OF BAGUIO**

[November 29, 1936]

Gentlemen:

In line with the policy of this Office and, in case existing laws and executive orders do not specifically compel the City to pay not less than P30 monthly in salaries and wages to the employees and laborers of the City of Baguio, you are hereby directed to approve an ordinance providing that all employees and laborers of the City of Baguio will not receive less than P30 in salaries or wages per month.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
Baguio

Municipal

Council

* Subsequently modified to include a minimum wage of P1 per day for laborers engaged on a daily basis.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on allowing Bills No. 2332 and 2350, governing transfers of funds sets aside for special purposes, to become laws without the President's signature, November 29, 1936

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**ALLOWING BILLS NOS. 2332 AND 2350, GOVERNING
TRANSFER OF FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR SPECIAL
PURPOSES, TO BECOME LAWS WITHOUT THE
PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE**

[November 29, 1936]

Sir;

I have allowed Bills Nos. 2332 and 2350 to become laws without my signature. As the application of their provisions may, in some cases, involve a violation of the provisions of Article VII, section 13(1), of the Constitution, Squiring that all money collected or any tax levied for a special purpose shall be treated as a special fund and paid out for such purpose only, you are requested to obtain in each particular case the opinion of the Department of Justice whether or not the transfer of any funds under the authority of said laws would result in a violation of this particular provision of the Constitution.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The				Honorable
The	Secretary	of	the	Interior
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on vacancies in the College of Medicine and the Philippine General Hospital

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On vacancies in the College of Medicine and the Philippine General Hospital**

[Released on December 23, 1936]

My dear Mr. Vice-President:

With reference to the vacancies now existing in the College of Medicine and in the Philippine General Hospital due to the resignation of Dr. Calderon, who was at the same time Dean of the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines, and Director of the Philippine General Hospital, I desire to make some statements that may be of help to you and to the Board of Regents of the University.

Under the law creating the University the deans of its different colleges are appointed by the Board of Regents. I do not wish, therefore, to have anything to say regarding the selection of the Dean of the College of Medicine. However, the appointment of the Director of the Philippine General Hospital is by law vested in the President and at this writing I do not desire to commit myself in any way as to whether the dean so chosen by the Board of Regents should be appointed by me as Director of the Philippine General Hospital.

As you know, we have been discussing the question of whether or not, in the interest of efficiency, both of these portions, that of Dean of the College of Medicine and that of Director of the Philippine General Hospital, should be held by the same person, as it has been in the case of Dr. Calderon, and we have not come to any conclusion regarding this matter. Up to this moment my mind is still open and I might be convinced to adopt one or the other policy.

In connection with the selection of the Dean of the College of Medicine, I wish the Board of Regents to feel perfectly free to act as in its opinion would seem best in the interest of the University. Under the law, the Board of Regents is charged with the administration of the University of the Philippines as well as with the adoption of the policies of the Institution, and while the power of appointing certain members of the Board is vested in the President, these members, once appointed, should exercise their own discretion in expressing their opinion and casting their vote on every question that is before the Board. This, of course, is understood to be subject to the powers vested in the Board of Visitors to exercise its jurisdiction if and when questions before the Board of Visitors require such action. Of course, on matters of policy that may affect the policies of the national Government with reference to education in general, it goes without saying that the Board of Regents is bound to bear in mind the policies of the Government as may be enunciated through acts of the national Assembly or executive orders of the Chief Executive. Otherwise I hope the Board will assume full responsibility for the selection of all the personnel of the Institution which under the law it is in duty bound to appoint. While the President of the University is appointed by me, what I say with reference to the members of the Board of Regents is applicable to him; that is, he will assume full responsibility for his acts and the Board must consider the recommendations of the President and act thereon according to the merits of the case as judged by the Board.

I hope I have made my attitude perfectly clear with regard to the prerogatives of the Board of Regents as well as with respect to the manner of selection of the University personnel by the members of the Board of Regents.

With warmest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon. Sergio Osmeña
Vice-President of the Philippines
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Contemplated Dissolution of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, November 10, 1936

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Contemplated Dissolution of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

[Released on November 10, 1936]

Dear Madam:

My attention has been called to a news item published in a morning paper regarding a contemplated meeting of the Board of Directors of the S. P. C. A. to discuss the question of the dissolution of the Society upon the assumption that my approval of the bill recently passed by the National Assembly, withdrawing from the Society the power to appoint agents with authority to make arrests of violators of the law for the protection of animals and consequently reverting to the treasury all fines imposed for violations of said law, implies withdrawal of official support from the Society. I earnestly hope that the Society will not be dissolved just on this account.

I cannot understand why the Society, and for the matter anyone else, should imply for the enactment of this law, that official support has been withdrawn from the Society. In a public statement, I have explained why I felt it my duty to sign the bill. It is wrong in principle and dangerous in practice to leave in the hands of any private institution the enforcement of any law, especially when there is a punishment for the violation of said law. It is a confession of either weakness or indifference, or both, on the part of the Government not to enforce its own laws. The fact that similar laws exist in the United States and in England does not justify its existence here. That which is fundamentally wrong is not made right because first-class powers do it. The evident reason why it had to-be done in America and in England is because cruelty to animals is a comparatively new moral concept amongst civilized peoples and the community in general has not been sufficiently educated to react strongly against it. Of course, this is true in the Philippines, more so than in England or America. But the remedy does not lie in placing the responsibility for enforcing the law in the hands of a private society, but rather in making the officials of the Government charged with the duty of enforcing the laws, comply strictly with their sworn duty, regardless of the indifferent or even hostile attitude of the general public.

As Chief Executive, it is my first and most important duty to execute the laws. And I shall enforce every law regardless of the attitude of the public thereto as long as they remain in the statute books. I cannot admit that any private society will be more interested than the Executive Department of this Government in the enforcement of our laws, including the one for the protection of animals.

I see that the Society has rendered other services besides capturing violators of the law, such as the maintenance of a hospital for taking care of sick animals. This is a service that the Society can and should continue to render. The Society can also help Government agents to detect infractions of the law and bring offenders to the courts for punishment. And, most important of all, the Society's aims could best be served by, disseminating information to the public so as to educate the people and inculcate in them that nobility of sentiment which insures the humane and kind treatment of all animals.

In closing I can assure you and your associates that with or without the Society I shall see to it that the law for the prevention of cruelty to animals is enforced in all its rigor; but I do hope that the Society will continue to cooperate and help the Government in this humane enterprise.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Mrs. Chairman, Society Manila for the P. Board Prevention of S. of Cruelty to Page Directors Animals

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on President's participation in the XXXIII International Eucharistic Congress,
January 9, 1937**

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE XXXIII INTER—
NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS**

[January 9, 1937]

Your Grace:

With reference to the proposed program for my participation in the XXXIII International Eucharistic Congress, which, at first glance, I thought referred to my personal participation therein and therefore expressed my approval thereof, I have noticed upon further consideration that what is intended in the program is that the Papal Legate shall be officially welcomed by the President of the Philippines in behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth, on one hand, and as the Head of the Nation and in behalf thereof, on the other.

In the first place, I desire to inform Your Grace that I find it absolutely necessary for me to leave for the United States, and to arrive in Washington, D. C., by a certain definite date, for the purpose of conferring with the President of the United States on very important affairs of State; and in order to make sure that I do not fail to be present at the conference at the appointed time, I shall have to take the *Empress of Canada* from Hongkong on the 26th of this month, leaving Manila on the *Victoria* on the 23rd in order to connect with the Empress. Much to my regret, therefore, I shall not be present in Manila during the Eucharistic Congress.

In the second place, I am informed by competent authority that the Government of the Philippines may not render His Eminence, the Papal Legate, honors that might in any way be construed as a recognition of him as a representative of a foreign State; that the Papal Legate should be regarded as an ecclesiastic of high rank without any official status, and should not, therefore, be accorded official honors which cannot properly be accorded to other distinguished non-official visitors to the Philippines.

The wording of the program as to the participation of the President of the Commonwealth in the ceremonies in honor of the Papal Legate may be construed as an official participation of the Government of the Commonwealth in these ceremonies. I must, therefore, request that all references to the President, or to the Government, of the Commonwealth be eliminated from the program of the Eucharistic Congress.

I hope I am a good practical Catholic. As such, in my individual capacity, there is nothing that I shall not be glad to do to give added solemnity to the celebration of the Eucharistic Congress. I am also most anxious, as a private individual professing the Catholic faith, to render honors and pay tribute to His Eminence, the Papal Legate; but, as the President of the Philippines, I am not in a position to do what your program calls for. There are many things that I have done, stretching very much my authority, in an effort to make the Eucharistic Congress a great success. Of this Your Grace is well informed.

The invitation to the Papal Legate to be my guest at Malacañan stands; and in view of my forthcoming absence from the Islands, I shall designate some one who will see to it that everything is done to make the stay of His Eminence as

pleasant and comfortable as my resources will permit. Mrs. Quezon feels that, in view of my absence, she had better go and live in one of our private houses during the stay of the Papal Legate in the palace.

I am instructing the Mayor of the City to provide the Papal Legate with an appropriate police escort that will insure not only his safety but also his prompt and timely arrival at the places where His Eminence may have or desire to go.

I am also giving instructions to have one of the coastguards in readiness for the use of the Papal Legate in visiting some cities of the southern islands. I shall not assume the responsibility of sending His Eminence to the northern part of the Archipelago during this northeast monsoon season.

One of my automobiles will also be at the disposal of the Papal Legate during the time he is in the City.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

MostRev.M.J.O'Doherty,D.D.
Archbishop
95 Arzobispo, Manila

of

Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Resignation of Insular Collector of Customs Aldanese, January 20, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES ON

**RESIGNATION OF INSULAR COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS
ALDANESE**

[January 20, 1937]

Dear Mr. Aldanese:

In reply to your letter of resignation as Insular Collector of Customs, effective at the convenience of the Government, and which I have had in my hands for a long time now, I am accepting the same with great regret, effective at the close of business, January 31, 1937.

As I examine your record of service I find that your first appointment as a mere clerk in the Cebu Customs Service dates as of April 4, 1899, a very long time ago; that you have steadily risen through the various intervening grades in the Customs service until, early in 1918, you were promoted to the very difficult and important post of Insular Collector of Customs, the trying duties of which you have loyally, efficiently, and graciously discharged to the benefit of the public.

I want to give public recognition to your splendid performance and I am sorry indeed that in fairness to you I feel I must not keep you any longer in the service.

I wish you health and success in all your undertakings.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Mr.			Vicente			Aldanese
Insular		Collector		of		Customs
(Through	the	Honorable,	the	Secretary	of	Finance)
Manila						

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on absence during the XXXIII International Eucharistic Congress, January 23, 1937

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
ABSENCE DURING THE XXXIII INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

[January 23, 1937]

My dear Cardinal Dougherty:

I regret, more than I can say, my inability to be present in Manila during the XXXIII International Eucharistic Congress to greet and extend to Your Eminence my most hearty welcome. I hope and pray that the Congress may be a great success and that Your Eminence and the other prelates and visitors may have a pleasant visit here.

Although I shall be absent, my invitation extended to Your Eminence to be my guest at Malacañan stands, and everything will be done to make Your Eminence feel the warmth of Filipino hospitality. It is my pleasure to say that although we have maintained strict noninterference, either on the part of the State with the affairs of the Church, or on the part of the Church with those of the State, as commanded in the Constitution, my relations with the dignitaries of the Catholic Church in the Islands have been most cordial, and the Archbishop of Manila, whose See is at the capital, has cooperated in every possible way that is within his province for the success of the new Government and the welfare of our people.

The selection of Manila as the place for the celebration of this International Eucharistic Congress has doubtless contributed to place this new nation before the eyes of the world, and so, even leaving aside considerations of spiritual character which I would not care to discuss in this letter, in this respect alone I feel that we should be deeply appreciative, as we actually are, of this distinction given us by His Holiness. The designation of Your Eminence as the Papal Legate has been particularly thoughtful and happy for it affords the Filipinos the opportunity of showing Your Eminence that the memory of our past relationship, when Your Eminence was the Bishop of the dioceses of Nueva Segovia and Jaro, remains fresh in our hearts.

With assurances of my respect and high consideration, I beg to be

Very faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

His							Eminence
The	Most	Reverend	Denis	Cardinal	Dougherty,	D.	D.
Papal							Legate
Manila							

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Filipinization of the Archbishopric of Manila, September 8, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

FILIPINIZATION OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF MANILA

[September 8, 1937]

Sirs:

I have before me your letter of July 22, 1937, in which you ask me to request His Holiness to Filipinize the position of the Archbishop of Manila. In answer to your petition, let me inform you that under the Constitution, the Government of the Commonwealth cannot interfere with purely ecclesiastical affairs and the principal duty of the President of the Philippines is to obey and enforce the clauses and provisions of the Constitution. I am, therefore, constrained to deny your petition to intercede in favor of the immediate Filipinization of the Archbishopric of Manila.

It would not be superfluous to remind you that the prohibition in the Constitution regarding any interference in ecclesiastical or religious matters has for its motive not only the protection of the right of the citizen to profess the religion that his conscience dictates him to follow, but also to protect any religion from any attempt on the part of the civil authorities to meddle or control the affairs that pertain to the Church. It is of utmost importance to the Church itself, and no less to the State, that the separation of their powers, as well as the independence of one from the other within their respective spheres of action, be held inviolate. In denying then, your petition, I should want it known that the policy of this Government is to follow strictly the letter and the spirit of those precepts of the Constitution which prohibit the interference by the State in ecclesiastical matters, and which likewise imply the firm stand of the State in not allowing the ecclesiastical authorities from meddling in purely State matters.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Rev. P. Placido G. Fidalgo and others
Maragondon, Cavite

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on Father Edwin Ronan as Organizer of the Philippine Army Chaplain's Service,
September 17, 1937**

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**FATHER EDWIN RONAN AS ORGANIZER OF THE PHILIPPINE
ARMY CHAPLAIN'S SERVICE**

[September 17, 1937]

My dear General Santos:

While in the United States, I designated Father Edwin Ronan as my adviser in the organization of that branch of the Army known as the Chaplain's Service. I selected Father Edwin to advise me in this work because of his unusual qualifications.

During the World War, the American Expeditionary Forces had in Europe a corps of chaplains composed of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews. This corps was headed by the late Bishop Brent of the Episcopal Church—one time the Bishop of that Church in the Philippines. Under Bishop Brent, Father Edwin, as head of the Catholic chaplains of the American Expeditionary Forces, acquired invaluable training, experience, and understanding, which qualify him preeminently to advise in this work. So far as I know, no Catholic priest or other minister of a faith or creed residing in the Philippines has ever had any assignment comparable to this rich and broadening experience.

It is very important in a service where representatives of different religions, creeds, and churches must work in cooperation, that any possible friction growing out of religious intolerance be absolutely avoided. Not only this, but it is of the utmost importance that religious tolerance be insured amongst priests and ministers who are called into the service.

Father Edwin had occasion, not only to see, but also to practise in Europe during the World War and among the American Expeditionary Forces, this essential principle. As I pointed out before, he served under a Protestant Bishop and as head of the Catholic Chaplains' Division he mingled and dealt with the respective chaplain heads of the other faiths and religions. I feel confident, therefore, that Father Edwin, acting as my adviser and placed under you, will do very valuable work in the organization of the Chaplain Service of the Philippine Army. With his great tact and ability, his tolerance for other people's opinions and beliefs, he will be a living example of what we expect from the chaplains of the Philippine Army.

The large majority of the Filipinos profess the Roman Catholic Faith; a minority, but a substantial minority, belongs to what is known as the Independent Philippine Church. Still a great number, running to hundreds of thousands, are Mohammedans; a small minority are Protestants. It is my purpose to have Roman Catholic, Aglipayan, Mohammedan, and Protestant chaplains in this service, and you are hereby directed and authorized to proceed at once with the organization of the said service.

Father Edwin, I am sure, will be of great help to you. I am not giving him a commission in the Philippine Army for he may not be commissioned—being an American, not a Filipino citizen. But as my adviser, and for the purpose of insuring the effectiveness of his help in this work, I am authorizing him to use the uniform of the Army if and

whenever necessary with the insignia of major. I am giving him the salary and emoluments corresponding to this rank.

I am very much interested in the organization of a Chaplain's Service not only because the National Defense Act so authorizes, but also because I am deeply convinced that religion is a moral force of incalculable value for good, and I am determined to take every precaution that will guarantee to our Army the whole benefits contemplated by the creation of this service. Let me avow publicly the firm conviction that faith in God and the practice of one's religious belief keeps a man, perhaps more than any other consideration, within the bounds of law and helps him in the performance of his duties. This is not to say, of course, that an atheist or a man without religion may not be a good citizen. It is, however, true that a people who profess collectively some religion and who honestly and intelligently practise that religion which they profess, are in little danger of social disorder and disintegration.

Therefore, in organizing the chaplain service, it is my desire and command that officers and enlisted men in the Philippine Army be given the opportunity to attend to the practices of their respective churches or religions and at convenient times to be enlightened in the principles, rules and dogmas of their respective faiths. No proselyting will be tolerated in the Army on the part of any church; each officer and soldier will be asked his religious preference. When in camp or garrison, the chaplain of a given church or religion says mass, holds service, or conducts preaching, there must be no interference with the freedom of choice on the part of the officers and men as to which one they shall attend.

Father Edwin has been instructed to report to you and to do such work as you may direct.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Major		General	Paulino	Santos
Chief	of	Staff,	Philippine	Army
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on suppression of lawlessness in Lanao, September 20, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SUPPRESSION OF LAWLESSNESS IN LANA O

[September 20, 1937]

My dear General Santos:

I am in receipt of reports, including official ones from Assemblyman Cabili and others, that unwise and ineffective policies have been pursued by the authorities in their attempts to suppress lawlessness in Lanao. According to these reports it has been the practice to permit Moros, when they have real or fancied grievances against the Government, to assemble in some outlying district, where they build a cotta to be used as a protected operating base in defying and resisting the representatives of the law. Only after the recalcitrants have been afforded time for deliberate preparation of their defenses has it been the habit of responsible government officials, either provincial or Constabulary, to appear upon the scene and to attempt to pacify the outlaws, or to dissuade them from projected resort to armed resistance. The immediate result has invariably been an intensification of efforts on the part of the Moros to strengthen their defenses, while the eventual one has been the precipitation of a battle between the Constabulary on the one hand, and the misguided Moros on the other. Moreover, it appears that, upon surrender, even after offering armed resistance to the forces of the law, Moros have frequently been allowed to go free without prosecution in the established courts.

The situation represented in these reports is an intolerable one; one that, if allowed to continue, will breed increasing difficulty and embarrassment for orderly and efficient government.

You will immediately direct all military officers in the Moro regions to observe the following instructions in dealing with lawlessness and with groups known to be preparing for armed resistance against the Government:

Every individual in the military service, whether or not serving in a Constabulary unit, will report immediately to his next superior any information coming to him of actual or projected law violation, and such information will be promptly and fully transmitted to the Constabulary official responsible for maintenance of law and order in the locality.

Every responsible official, upon learning of a gathering of Moros in large number and without proper permission, will immediately proceed to the place of assembly with sufficient force to meet any unexpected resistance and to protect against ambush. If such groups are found to be armed they will, before approaching them, be ordered to surrender all weapons. When this has been done the officer in charge will, tactfully but firmly, make exhaustive inquiry into the reasons for the assemblage. Careful explanation will be made of the offenses involved in conspiring to offer armed resistance to the Government, or of building cottas in preparation for such armed resistance. They will be informed of the punishment attaching to conviction of such offenses, and will be carefully warned that, if found at another time gathered for the same purpose, they will be arrested. They will then be ordered to disband immediately. Should such assemblages refuse to disband, or after a reasonable time it should be found that they are gathered in the same or another place for illegal purposes, such as the building of cottas, they will be arrested and brought before the courts.

At any time that a military detachment discovers any unlawful assemblage, particularly when a cotta has been built or is in the process of building, and, upon proper demand, the surrender of weapons therein is refused, the place should be attacked and demolished as quickly as sufficient force is at hand to assure success. From the beginning of any such untoward and unfortunate incident the full force of available military units will be brought to bear to bring it to an end expeditiously and effectively.

In no case may any officer of the Army or the Constabulary assume the right to neglect his duty to prosecute those who offer armed resistance to, or otherwise violate, the law. All information at his command will be immediately furnished to officials responsible for the conduct of such prosecutions, and full and complete report of the incident itself and of the information furnished will be promptly forwarded to the next military superior.

No member of the Constabulary or of the Army, from the Chief of Staff down to the last soldier, at any station in the Philippines, is vested with any power or right to enter into an agreement with any violator of the law whereby such offender is guaranteed or promised freedom from criminal prosecution. To do so is to assume, in effect, the right of granting pardons, a power that by constitutional provision is exclusively vested in the President. Where any officer believes that such pardon should be granted, his recommendations, with reasons therefor, will be forwarded through his military superiors to the President, after he has discharged his full official duty in assuring the prompt prosecution of the offender. The principle that in the courts alone, subject to the pardoning power of the President, resides the authority to determine the guilt or innocence of an accused, and to fix the degree of punishment for law violation, must be rigidly observed by every member of your command. Proven disregard of this principle by any individual will result in his immediate separation from the service.

Every cotta now existing in the Moro region will be immediately destroyed, except such, if there be any, which, for its historical interest should be preserved. In this case the cotta may be preserved under the supervision and control of the military authorities. With this exception, all cottas in every section of the territory inhabited by Moros will be promptly demolished. Should any lack of personnel or available funds impede the execution of this order you will make, without delay, a full report of all the facts to this office.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

General		Paulino		Santos
Chief	of	Staff,	Philippine	Army
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Barredo-Cuevo Case, September 23, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

BARREDO-CUEVO CASE

[September 23, 1937]

My dear Mr. Chief Justice:

Although I have already given out a statement that when I expressed publicly my opinion on the Barredo case I had not been informed that it was pending before the Supreme Court for adjudication, my writing you directly on the subject will perhaps serve a good purpose.

Let me state first—to show how I feel generally about discussing a question *sub judice*—that at the same press conference in which my opinion of the Barredo case was asked, I declined to comment on Judge Vera's decision on the Cu Unjieng case, upon the ground, as I then stated, that it was pending before the High Tribunal for decision.

I take it, knowing you and every member of the Court— and so I feel certain thereof—that either the Court collectively or its members individually, in arriving at a conclusion on the Barredo case, will in no way be influenced by either what I have said or by what the people may think of their decision. I am confident, too, that you and your associates will, on your part, feel as certain that I would expect you to ignore entirely what I have said on the subject.

If you and the Court believe that it will be in the public interest to have this letter published, please feel at liberty to do so.

With my expression of high esteem and regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Manila

Ramon Avanceña

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Balatoc Mining Company Test Case, September 25, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

BALATOC MINING COMPANY TEST CASE

[September 25, 1937]

My dear Judge Haussermann:

Secretary Yulo has gone personally into the Balatoc Mining Company test case and he has reported his findings to me. The Secretary is convinced that this case is not the proper case to be submitted to the court for a determination of the rights that are protected by the Constitution with reference to mining claims. In this case there are questions of fact that must be determined first by the courts, facts that, according to the evidence in the possession of the Government, vitiate any alleged rights that the Balatoc Mining Company may have. Indeed, I must tell you that the evidence in the possession of the Government places the Balatoc Mining Company in a light that I feel sure you would not wish the company to appear and that you yourself will be interested in having the facts thoroughly presented to the courts for adjudication. Under the circumstances, I have authorized the Secretary of Justice to go ahead and conduct this case in a manner that will compel the presentation of the facts in controversy to the court and its decision as to what the facts are, as verified from the evidence of either side.

I hope I need not reiterate in this letter what I have stated in your presence and in the presence of your lawyers, DeWitt and Recto, as well as in the presence of the Solicitor-General and Assistant Attorney Concepcion. The statements that I then made I repeated to Secretary Yulo upon his return, first in a conference I had with him when no one else was present, and in a conference that we had together with Justice Recto, namely, that I am still desirous to have the court decide what is intended by the Constitution when it safeguarded acquired rights in mining claims. I still am prepared to get the Government to cooperate with the mining industry in an effort to have this matter settled amicably and fairly to both sides. But this particular case which we have at hand does not appear to me the right case for an amicable settlement. The Government must protect its rights and must not be placed in a position where it would seem to tolerate an open defiance or violation of the law, done with the full knowledge that the law is being defied or violated.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
President
Benguet
Manila

John
Consolidated

W.
Mining

Haussermann
Company

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Presidential Support of Assemblymen's Reelection, September 29, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLYMEN'S REELECTION

[September 29, 1937]

My dear Assemblyman Quimpo:

I have read in the "Kasarinlan" my telegram addressed to you, dated September 8, 1937. I want to say that you have no right to publish that telegram, and you have given me reason to doubt whether I should support you in your campaign for reelection. You know that the sending of that telegram expressing my support of your reelection is not due to my special interest in your case, but a fulfillment of the promise I had made to all the members of the National Assembly that I would, regardless of his loyalty to the party or to me, give my support to every member seeking reelection, who, judging from his records, has shown, not only patriotism and ability, but also knowledge of the problems confronting the Government and a determination to contribute his part to carry out policies that will promote the general well-being of the people.

You will remember, I am sure, that when I made that statement, I took special pains to impress upon the members of the National Assembly that my concept of their worth to the country and my willingness to support them for reelection did not depend upon the fact that they voted for every measure that I recommended to the National Assembly; and that if and when a member of the National Assembly should have any objection to any measure recommended by me because in his own conscience he could not support my recommendation, that fact should not prevent me from supporting him, as I would consider it an evidence of his worthiness to continue in his position as a member of the National Assembly. I did say, however, that I deem it my duty to fight any member of the National Assembly seeking reelection, if and when I find that he opposed my recommendation to the National Assembly and did that only to show to the people that he could defy me, for in such a case I thought that I had the right to test whether the people were with the National Assembly or with me; that no member of the National Assembly had the right to secure my support and at the same time appear before the people, making it his issue that he has fought the policies of the administration or of the President.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Assemblyman
Davao

Romualdo

for C.

Quimpo
Davao

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Clean and Orderly Elections, September 30, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CLEAN AND ORDERLY ELECTIONS

[September 30, 1937]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The coming general elections being the first to be held under the Commonwealth Government, I am particularly desirous of taking every precaution that will prevent, as much as human ingenuity will permit, the commission of any act in violation of the Election Law, with a view to inspiring confidence among the people in the high purposes of the National Government, and avoiding suspicion that it is permitting, directly or indirectly, any undue influence to be exerted in the election of a particular candidate, especially to the position of provincial governor.

I, therefore, request you to take every step that is necessary: (a) to enforce, not only the letter but also the spirit of the law, so as to guarantee to the minority proper representation in the polling places (colegios electorales); (b) to prevent government officials, who, under the law are prohibited from directly or indirectly taking part in election campaigns, from supporting directly or indirectly any candidate in the coming elections; and (c) to use the legal means in your power to stop, without unnecessary or unavoidable delay, any illegal act that may be committed.

In this connection, I have given very serious and deliberate thought to the question as to whether the governors now in office should be allowed to continue in their present positions if they are candidates for reelection. Commonwealth Act No. 199, passed by the National Assembly at its last session, provides that provincial and municipal officials shall continue in office even after the expiration of their term, unless the Chief Executive decides to replace them prior to November 15th, 1937. I have adopted the policy of leaving all provincial and municipal officials in office until they should cease by operation of law. I deem this to be the only safe procedure to follow in order to avoid the commission of either injustice or mistakes. Presently, however, I am confronted with the practical question of whether or not I should allow provincial governors who are candidates for reelection to remain in office and thus enable them to have this advantage over their opponents. It should be borne in mind that these provincial governors have already been benefited by the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 199, when they were allowed to continue in office beyond the expiration of the term for which they had been elected. Considering that the Chief Executive is responsible under the law for determining whether or not they should remain in office, to permit them to continue therein, whether they are candidates or not, would be, in a way, to give them, by choice of the Chief Executive, an advantage over their opponents. I desire to adopt the policy of complete neutrality in these coming elections, in order to inspire greater confidence in the people that the Executive departments of the Government will enforce the Election Law in its integrity. I have to come to the conclusion that I can in no better way show that impartiality than by deciding to appoint acting governors in all those provinces where the present incumbents are candidates for reelection. I, therefore, request you to write at once to all provincial governors, asking them whether they are candidates for reelection, and to inform them that if they are, the Chief Executive shall designate acting governors to act until the elections are over. Perhaps it would be better if I designate in each case one of the provincial officials to act as governor, and thus save money for the province and at the same time avoid having to choose the acting governor from the party that will take part in the coming elections. However, I want you to consider this matter and to submit your recommendations to me.

In the case of municipal officials, I do not deem it of sufficient importance to justify a wholesale change, in view of their great number, and as it would be practically impossible to find nonpartisan substitutes in most cases or to make new designations with some reasonable assurance that such appointed officials would discharge their duties well.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.		Elpidio		Quirino
Secretary			the	Interior
Manila	of			

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Electoral Campaigns by Civil-Service Employees and on fair and orderly Provincial and Municipal Elections, October 7, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS BY CIVIL-SERVICE EMPLOYEES
AND ON FAIR AND ORDERLY PROVINCIAL AND
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

[October 7, 1937]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

As you well know, for I have repeatedly stated not only in the sessions of the Cabinet but also in my conferences with you, it is my desire and plain purpose to have these coming elections—the first general elections under the Commonwealth—conducted in full compliance with existing laws. It is of general knowledge that in the past, officials and employees of the Government who are subject to Civil Service rules and regulations have been taking part in the elections directly or indirectly in violation of such rules and regulations. This condition must not continue, so please instruct the officials under your Department to take immediate action and investigate every complaint directed against public servants engaging in electoral activities, and if there is reasonable ground for administrative action, please refer the matter at once to the Department concerned. All officials and employees of the Government should know that drastic action will be taken against them for participating in electoral campaigns in violation of Civil Service rules and regulations. The time has come for a due and full enforcement of the Civil Service law.

These early years of the Commonwealth Government constitute the proper time for laying the foundation of a real and lasting democracy in the Philippines and for discarding all practices tending to frustrate the will of the people in the choice of their public servants. Particularly the justices of the peace, the police, and the school teachers must be impressed with the necessity not only of not taking any part in the elections other than to exercise their right to vote, but also of not giving any ground for suspicion that they have partisan leanings.

Of course, Secretaries of Department are under the law given the privilege to take active part in the electoral campaigns and I would not deprive them of this privilege unless in a given case I should feel that public interest so requires or that their intervention in the campaign may be construed as an evidence that I myself am interested in the victory of any given candidate.

I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to say to the people that provincial and municipal elections are of no concern to me personally or to my administration except to see to it that they are fairly and orderly conducted. The provincial and municipal governments have no direct voice or control in national affairs and they cannot in any way be an obstacle to the execution of the policies to which my administration is committed. Of course, we would need the cooperation of provincial and municipal officials, and the law wisely places in the hands of the Chief Executive effective means whereby he can compel local functionaries to cooperate with the National Government in the execution of its policies as determined by law. It is for this reason that it is futile for candidates for provincial and municipal offices to discuss national issues or national policies, which they have no right or power to define, direct or control, unless perhaps it is used as an opportunity to educate and inform the people as to the meaning and import of such policies and to create public opinion for or against them, which is one of the plausible objectives of an

electoral campaign. But it is well to remind these candidates for provincial and municipal offices at this time that their main concern should be directed to what they can do in the interest of their respective provinces and municipalities or cities. For otherwise, that is to say, if they should go out of their own field of action, they are liable to find, once they are elected, that they are impotent to carry out their implied or expressed promises to their electors.

I hope that these provincial and municipal elections, which the National Assembly purposely decided to hold separately from the national elections, precisely to separate local from national issues so that the vote of the people may be given its proper interpretation and meaning, will be utilized in the discussion of those problems which vitally affect their respective localities.

Copy of this letter will be sent to every Secretary of Department.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The Secretary of Honorable, the
Manila the Interior

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Three-point Policy for Mindanao and Sulu, October 8, 1937

**Letter*
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Three-Point Policy for Mindanao and Sulu**

[Released on October 8, 1937]

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that your letter of the 2nd instant, addressed to His Excellency, the President, in which you comment on his "three-point policy" on the affairs of Mindanao and Sulu, has been received. In this connection permit me to call your attention to the fact that in his memorandum to the Secretary of the Interior dated September 20, 1937, His Excellency does not seek to interfere with the use of titles by Moro sultans or datus so long as it is clearly understood that a title carries with it no official rights or privileges. What the President desires to emphasize is that there are no privileged classes under this Government and no authority vested on any individual not occupying an official position. In other words, the President is determined to consider and to act towards the Mohammedan Filipinos as he considers and acts towards the Christians, precisely because he agrees with you that the so-called Moro problem is a myth.

His Excellency appreciates your kind interest in his administration, particularly in matters affecting your district, and he wishes me to inform you that your recommendation for the retention of Major Leon Angeles as Provincial Governor of Sulu for the time being, will be given due consideration.

Very respectfully,

Jorge B. Vargas
Secretary to the President

Hon.
National
Manila

Ombra

Amilbangsa
Assembly

* This is a reply to a letter of Assemblyman Ombra Amilbangsa, which is as follows:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MANILA

October 2, 1937

His
The
Malacañan
Manila

PRESIDENT

OF

THE

Excellency
PHILIPPINES
Palace

Dear Mr. President:

1. In recent issues of the local dailies, I read with deep interest the released copy of Your Excellency's Memorandum, addressed to the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, in which Your Excellency's "Three-Point Policies," defining how affairs in Moroland are to be administered, was embodied. As Your Excellency's loyal supporter, I cannot let the news pass without commenting on the policies, especially in their relations to my district.

2. The policy of giving a free hand to the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu on all plans he may deem fit to execute is indeed plausible and commendable, and it could not have been otherwise. As a matter of fact, I joined Assemblymen Fortich and Cabili in endorsing that policy to Your Excellency when the measure was yet pending the action of the National Assembly.

3. As to the non-recognition of the various titles, a practice still adhered to by the various Mohammedan elements in Mindanao and Sulu, I think, Mr. President, the policy as released covering this subject was most unnecessary, as the non-recognition has already taken effect since the abrogation of the Bates Treaty and the implantation of the Civil Government in the regions referred to. In the agreement concluded between the Sultan of Sulu and Frank Carpenter, then Secretary of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, the former is recognized as a temporal head of that region and as such his office is confined to religious activities. In the light of these facts the Government, I think, Mr. President, has no right to interfere with them so long as no law or order is infringed. The religious titles ever since in vogue in the Mohammedan regions are akin to religious titles enjoyed and practiced by the different Christian sects.

4. The policy of suppressing the practice of appointing army officers as governors in Moro provinces is one thing about which I beg to be allowed to discuss at length and with liberty. The administration dating back to the early American administrators, had initiated various policies principally intended to maintain peace and order, but lamentably never promulgated policies to effect universal improvements in those regions. As a result of this uncomprehensive plan, the accomplishments were nothing more than the blowing out of the Moro cottas and enactment of other bloody dramas. Judging from the records of the past, it seems that questions of efficiency of administration in Moroland depend in a large measure, upon the personal ability, integrity and far-sightedness of the local administrator rather than by imposing rigid obedience to mutable policies.

5. Regarding the present incumbent, Major Leon Angeles, his administration since his appointment is one worthy of praise and commendation. His experience and adeptness in understanding conditions obtaining in the province, make him the most logical man to remain in the position for sometime until Your Excellency think otherwise. He is the most capable Filipino governor ever appointed to that position. I believe that in justice to the incumbent, Your Excellency should allow him to remain for sometime in order that he could accomplish the projects he has just started.

6. Talks of Moro problems, both of the past and the present, have been the topics deafening the ears of the public. The Moros, myself included, are ignorant of the so-called Moro problems, and we emphatically deny its existence.

7. In passing, I beg leave to state that in Mindanao Your Excellency has two groups of supporters: the first are those who readily yield assent to what Your Excellency say, and the second, those who study Your Excellency's policy and offer constructive criticisms and suggestions to the end that the country may be benefited. I am happy that I belong to the second group so that if I express myself openly and frankly, it is because it is my honest and sincere belief that in doing so, I am helping and coöperating with Your Excellency to perfect a policy conducive to the general welfare of my people.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) SULTAN OMBRA AMILBANGSA
Assemblyman for Sulu

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on Nonparticipation in Provincial, and Municipal Elections, October 8, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**NONPARTICIPATION IN PROVINCIAL, AND MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS**

[October 8, 1937]

This letter is intended for the provincial governor and members of the National Assembly from Iloilo.

Conformably with the policy I have already enunciated to you in person, I desire to reiterate the position I have taken in regard to the coming elections that I shall take no part nor interest in the election of any candidate for any provincial, city or municipal office and that the Nacionalista Party cannot have an official candidate unless one is so selected by agreement between the "Anti" and "Pro" factions who have joined the new Nacionalista Party in a given province or locality, as agreed upon at the recent national convention.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Disinterestedness in Local Politics of Cebu, October 23, 1937

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

DISINTERESTEDNESS IN LOCAL POLITICS OF CEBU

[October 23, 1937]

My dear Vice-President Osmeña:

My attention has been called to an article by one Rafael A. Bautista, appearing in the Advertiser, a newspaper published in Cebu, for Thursday, October the 14th, 1937. I understand the paper is owned by José Avila, one of the well known political followers of yours in the province. In this article the agreement held by the Anti and Pro leaders of Cebu regarding candidates for provincial officials in that province is made to appear as a dictation from me. This is not only unfair, but also entirely false, and I think the time has come for me to state publicly that such intervention as I have had in the transactions had between Anti and Pro leaders in Cebu, has been due mainly to your own request, and that, as a matter of fact, I have done it, not only reluctantly, but also with great discomfort and displeasure. The same thing is true with reference to anything that I had to do with attempts at fixing conflicting candidacies in other parts of the Archipelago. I have been annoyed every time that I have been approached by either side on matters of this kind, and if and when I have consented to take any part at all, however passive, I have done it only when both parties have agreed to come to me on their own volition and have made it appear to me that it was in the best interest of the province, not only of the newly fused party itself, that some kind of agreement be arrived at.

Let it be known, once and for all, that every time I am approached on purely political matters a disfavor is done to me personally, if not to my administration. The duties of my office are too exacting, and I need all the time I can dispose of for my own relaxation, and not share it with party affairs, which, at least, as far as provincial and municipal elections are concerned, can have no possible effect on national policies. Will you be kind enough to make it clear to the people of your province that neither in the case of the last agreement, nor in the case of my friend, Judge Cui, who was importuned by us, have I been in any way interested in being dragged into the local politics of Cebu?

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.		Sergio		Osmeña
Vice-President	of		the	Philippines
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Spanish-Fascist Propaganda in San Juan de Letran College, November 10, 1937

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
**SPANISH-FASCIST PROPAGANDA IN SAN JUAN DE LETRAN
COLLEGE**

[November 10, 1937]

Esteemed Father Rector:

The statement attributed to you which appeared in the "Herald" of the 8th of this month has impressed me disagreeably. You do not appear to give the proper importance to the unfortunate incident which provoked my public disapproval in the address I made at the alumni banquet of the College of San Juan de Letran in the presence of yourself and other authorities of that institution.

I believed that what I said on that occasion would be sufficient to make you and the rest of the Spanish residents of the Philippines realize that this Government does not, and cannot, approve of the Philippines being converted into a theater of propaganda for the sympathizers of the contending parties in Spain in order to further their interests. As I said in my address, we Filipinos have no reason to take sides in that contest one way or the other. Our interest must be limited to a desire to see peace reestablished in Spain and to have that country, with which we are united by historical ties, once more engage in the pursuits of peace and progress and occupy its place in the concert of nations.

Your explanation, according to the "Herald," that the Spanish Fascist march was played in honor of my friend, the Marquis of Mellin, is a reiteration of your belief that within the Letran College Spaniards who are partisans of General Franco have a right to give public recognition to the government of the latter. Furthermore, you evidently consider yourselves entitled to make propaganda for that government in the college, as shown by the fact, to which my attention has been called, that a pamphlet containing an article by Douglas Jerrold, and the Letran News, a publication of the Letran students an entire page of which was dedicated exclusively to General Franco, were distributed among the guests on the day of the banquet.

The Letran College is a school established in the Philippines and recognized by the Government. So long as the United States do not officially recognize General Franco's government as the constituted government of Spain, I consider it improper for a school recognized by the Philippine Government to serve as theater of propaganda to either of the parties at present warring in Spain. This includes the so-called loyalist government, although it is still the government recognized by the United States.

The Constitution imposes upon the Philippine State certain duties with reference to education. Interpreting the spirit of that document, unless you guarantee that the Letran College will cooperate with my government in its policy of absolute neutrality in the present conflict in Spain, I shall, much to my regret, be constrained to take such action as may in my judgment be proper for the protection of the youths of the Philippines attending that institution. I hope you will not place me in the necessity of taking such a step, which would cause me great distress because of the great affection which, as everybody knows, I cherish for the Letran College.

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Rev.
Rector,
Manila

Fr.
College

Juan
of

San

Labrador,
Juan

O.
de

P.
Letran

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on sale of books and notes by Professors in the University of the Philippines,
November 18, 1937**

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
**SALE OF BOOKS AND NOTES BY PROFESSORS IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES**

[November 18, 1937]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Complaints have reached me to the effect that certain professors of the University of the Philippines practically compel their students to buy books or mimeographed notes that they themselves have written on the subjects they teach. I am told that this practice has been tolerated for many years, even during the administrations preceding President Bocobo's.

I consider such practice as fundamentally wrong, especially as some of these books and notes appear to be mere compilations and do not seem to have contributed anything new to the subjects with which they deal. A professor can have no reason to expect his students to read what he publishes unless he can offer them something new and meritorious or which is not readily available in authoritative publications. I understand, too, that the prices exacted for such books or mimeographed notes are, if not exorbitant, entirely out of proportion to their worth to such an extent that mere profit, it is alleged, seems to be the animating purpose.

I request you to ask the Board of Regents to order an investigation of this question, and to take appropriate action. A professor should always bear in mind that his example no less than his teaching should serve as a guide for his pupils to follow. Obviously, knowledge of subject-matter is an essential requirement, but honesty and integrity are, in my estimation, of even greater value. The influence of a dishonest professor over youth, at this impressionable age, is very damaging and its consequences cannot be foreseen. It is my earnest desire, Mr. Secretary, that not only among the professors of the University of the Philippines, but also in the whole teaching service, your Department should insist on the highest standard of conduct and behavior as indispensable qualifications.

It is requested that you give me a report of the findings of the Board of Regents and of the action taken thereon.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The							Honorable
The	Secretary		of	Public			Instruction
Chairman	of	the		Board	of		Regents
University		of		the			Philippines
Manila							

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Radiogram of President Quezon to Commissioner Paredes, January 27, 1938

**Radiogram
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Commissioner Paredes**

[Delivered in Washington, D.C., January 27, 1938]

**ATTITUDE OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE TOWARD CONGRESSMAN
O'MALLEY'S PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON IMMEDIATE
FREEDOM**

I shall not place myself in the position of refusing independence under any and all circumstances if and when it be so decided by the Congress. No self-respecting people would do otherwise.

O'Malleys proposed resolution represents an attitude regarding American-Philippine relationship that is not new nor very rare.

Fortunately for the good name of America and the welfare of the Filipino people such an attitude does not represent and never has represented the policy of neither the Executive Department of the United States Government nor of the American Congress.

By taking the Philippines forcibly both from Spain and from the Filipinos themselves America has voluntarily assumed, and it would seem deliberately, moral obligations towards the Filipino people as their guardian and trustee. This self-imposed obligation on the part of the United States has been publicly avowed by the American Government as voiced by McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, and every other President of the United States, including the present incumbent, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has repeatedly confirmed with deeds his own public pronouncements in this regard. The Congress has adopted as the national policy toward the Philippines those declarations made by American chief executives.

The economic policy of America affecting the Philippines which she promulgated upon her own initiative and responsibility has created an economic situation here that makes imperative the granting of sufficient time for the economic readjustment of this country before the present trade relations are completely terminated, unless the granting of independence is to be made with utter disregard of the economic and financial consequences with all its implications to the Philippines.

The foregoing is our view of American-Filipino relations as established and avowed by acts of the American Congress and of the Executive Department of the American Government.

However, both as the authorized spokesman for our people and as a Filipino, I shall not place myself in the position of refusing independence under any and all circumstances if and when it be so decided by the Congress. No self-respecting people would do otherwise.

My own preference, and I think I represent the consensus in this country, arrived at after mature deliberation, is that it will be equally in the interest of America and of the Philippines if independence were to be granted at the end of this or the beginning of next year and at the same time a trade arrangement between the United States and the

Philippines agreed upon substantially in line with the views of President Roosevelt as recently published in the press.

Source: University Archives, **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Letter of President Quezon on removal from the service of Provincial Fiscal Blanco and Assistant Provincial Fiscal Debuque of Iloilo, February 14, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On removal from the service of Provincial Fiscal Blanco and Assistant Provincial Fiscal Debuque of Iloilo**

[Released on February 14, 1938]

My dear Secretary Yulo:

On January 28th last, José M. Nava, of Iloilo, sent me a telegram setting forth complaints against the action taken by the Provincial Governor and the Provincial Commander in the strike of laborers of the sugar centrals of Janiuay and Barotac in the Province of Iloilo. Among these complaints, there was one based specifically upon the alleged fact that a man, who was not even a striker, had been attacked by Captain Tando of the Philippine Army and others without cause, and confined in the municipal jail of Janiuay for four days with no charges having been presented against him before the courts, and kept handcuffed during the whole time he was detained.

On the same day, I ordered the Provincial Commander of Iloilo to investigate the charges and to report to me immediately. At the same time, I asked you to instruct the Provincial Fiscal of Iloilo to make a similar investigation.

On January 29th, Major Donesa, Provincial Commander of Iloilo, referring to the complaint regarding a man in the municipal jail of Janiuay, reported to me as follows:

“Diaz also stated that leg irons were placed around his legs when in jail from date of arrest to Sunday morning, eight o’clock (from 22nd to the 23rd of January) by order of the Chief of Police of Janiuay. Chief of Police of Janiuay stated he ordered policemen on guard to place leg irons whenever Diaz requested to go out at night for personal necessity as security for, according to the Chief of Police, Diaz is considered one of the bad men in the central.”

On the same day you received from the Acting Provincial Fiscal of Iloilo a report as follows :

“No evidence showing handcuffs used during detention.”

It has been definitely established through a preliminary, and later, a formal investigation, wherein the Provincial Fiscal of Iloilo, Mr. Blanco, and his assistant, then acting as provincial fiscal, were present and heard that the said prisoner had been actually placed in leg irons by order of the Chief of Police of Janiuay. It also appears beyond doubts that the telegram of the Secretary of Justice addressed to the Provincial Fiscal of Iloilo ordering the investigation, was received by Fiscal Blanco who, being on leave of absence, referred it to Acting Fiscal Debuque; and that when Debuque sent his report to the Secretary of Justice as hereinbefore quoted, he knew that Leonardo Diaz had been placed in leg irons. It also appears that Fiscal Blanco saw this report before it was sent to the Secretary of Justice, and he also knew at that time that Leonardo Diaz had been placed in leg irons and yet allowed Debuque to send the said report.

Blanco offers as his defense that he was on leave of absence and he claims that the whole responsibility, if any, fell on Acting Fiscal Debuque. Fiscal Debuque, on his part, offers as his defense that he gave no importance to the placing of the prisoner in leg irons and, therefore, made no reference to it in his report to the Secretary of Justice; that he believed that the order of investigation by the Secretary of Justice was intended to determine whether the arrest of Leonardo Diaz was legal or illegal.

It is my opinion, and I so declare, that Fiscal Blanco has been negligent in the performance of his duties as Provincial Fiscal of Iloilo. Granting that he was on leave of absence, yet having himself received the telegram of the

Secretary of Justice, he should, even if he did not consider himself in duty bound to make the investigation, have seen to it that the investigation was properly conducted by his assistant, Debuque, then acting provincial fiscal. And above all, he should have caused the report sent to the Secretary of Justice to be a truthful report. If I were to be very strict in passing judgment upon the conduct of Fiscal Blanco, I should declare him guilty as an accomplice of the same offense committed by his assistant, but I think the interest of justice will be served sufficiently by merely declaring Fiscal Blanco negligent in the performance of his duties, and ordering, as I hereby order, that his resignation be demanded with the understanding that upon his refusal to submit it, he would be removed from office.

As for the acting Provincial Fiscal, Mr. Debuque, it is my opinion, and I so order, that he be removed from office at once, and that the matter be sent to the acting fiscal of Iloilo for his study as to whether a criminal action should be taken or not against Debuque.

I am shocked to learn of the defense presented by the fiscals of Iloilo to the effect that they give no importance to the illegal and cruel treatment given to a prisoner accused of only such a crime as carrying a bolo. The conduct of these fiscals and the Chief of Police of Janiway reveals an attitude of mind towards defenseless people who may be arrested for some offense that cannot be tolerated.

You will, Mr. Secretary, demand by telegraph that Provincial Fiscal Blanco should submit his resignation within one week, and inform him that failing to do so, he will be removed from office. You will also telegraph Assistant and Deputy Fiscal Debuque of his separation from the service, effective the day of his suspension.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable José Yulo
Secretary of Justice
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on dismissal of the Chief of Police of Janiuay, Iloilo, and of a secret service agent of the city of Iloilo, February 14, 1938

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**DISMISSAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF JANIUAY, ILOILO,
AND OF A SECRET SERVICE AGENT OF THE CITY
OF ILOILO**

[February 14, 1938]

My dear Secretary Quirino:

After careful consideration of the complete report of investigation of the complaint against the Chief of Police of Janiuay, conducted under my instructions by Judge Enage, I have concluded that the facts of the case are as follows:

On January 22nd a strike by laborers was declared in the centrals of Janiuay and Barotac, Province of Iloilo. Upon learning of the strike, the Governor of Iloilo proceeded at once to order the mobilization of the State Police of seven municipalities and requested the Provincial Commander of the province to give him a Constabulary force—all for the purpose, according to the Governor, of maintaining peace and order.

The Provincial Commander of Iloilo gave the soldiers as requested, and these, together with the State Police, were placed around the two above-mentioned centrals. A man who was not one of the strikers, for he was not a laborer in any of those centrals, was found with a bolo and thereupon arrested by Captain Tando, Chief of Police of the City of Iloilo, and a secret service man by the name of Crispin Adelantar. By order of Captain Tando the arrested man, whose name is Leonardo. Diaz, was turned over to Pacifico Abordo, Chief of Police of Janiuay.

While secret service man Crispin Adelantar had Leonardo Diaz under his custody, he struck Diaz twice. After Leonardo Diaz had been turned over to the Chief of Police of Janiuay, he was kept in the municipal jail of Janiuay. By order of Chief of Police Abordo leg irons were placed on him. According to Leonardo Diaz, during the whole time that he was in the municipal jail, he was made to wear leg irons day and night. According to the testimony of the police of Janiuay and admitted by their Chief, the leg irons were used only whenever Diaz was taken out of jail to satisfy a physiological urge.

It is immaterial whether leg irons were placed on this prisoner all the time or only while he was out of the jail. In either case the prisoner was treated with cruelty. The length of time he had on the leg irons is merely a question of the degree of cruelty indicted. The Government cannot afford to have in the service a Chief of Police so inhuman as the Chief of Police of Janiuay proved himself to be.

The same thing is to be said of the secret service man who struck Leonardo Diaz. I am therefore, of the opinion, and I so order, that both the chief of police and the secret service man be immediately dismissed from office. You will please execute this order by telegraph. The acting provincial fiscal of Iloilo will be ordered to look into the matter to see whether criminal prosecution should be instituted or not against Pacifico Abordo and Crispin Adelantar.

I may state that, in my opinion, the Governor of Iloilo allowed himself to be unduly excited by this strike. The mobilization of the Constabulary and the State Police of seven municipalities was unnecessary and ill-advised. The

right to strike has not been declared illegal either by the Constitution or by any act of the Legislature. In cases of strikes where public interest is not directly or indirectly affected, an untimely intervention by the armed forces of the Government, even if only for purposes of preventing violations of the law, places the Government in a position that would justify the belief that armed forces have been called in the interest of one or the other side. The Governor of Iloilo should have been on the alert, but he did not have to mobilize the State Police of seven towns as the police of the City of Iloilo and the Constabulary stationed in said city were more than sufficient to maintain order and suppress lawlessness and violence in the region where the strikes were taking place. Knowing the Governor of Iloilo personally, I have no doubt that he acted in good faith. It is his vigor and energy that impelled him to act hastily.

If there is going to be faith in the justice and impartiality of this Government in cases arising between capital and labor, or between the different constituent parts of the community, we must at all times not only act justly and impartially, but also be careful that our actions have no appearance of partiality. Social justice can only mean justice to each and every social group. If my administration is placing special emphasis on the need for ameliorating the conditions of the laboring class, it is not because we are against the capitalists or the rich, but it is because the laboring class in the Philippines has not received its due, and therefore stands in need of the help and protection of the Government in order that its right may be properly recognized and accorded.

It would be national suicide to persecute capital. In our age, capital, and in large amounts, is necessary for the economic development and the social welfare of the people. Capital is entitled to a reasonable profit, and this reasonable profit must not be denied it under any pretext. So long as capital is not unmindful of the social purpose and duties of property, so long will our Government give it wholehearted support and protection, but not otherwise.

In the case of the strikes in Iloilo, especially considering the abuses actually committed by the Chief of Police of Janiuay and a secret service man, as well as the negligence of the fiscals of that province in not properly investigating and reporting these abuses, it would not be surprising if the people of that province came to the conclusion that the Government, before it was established which side was right, had taken the side of the sugar centrals as against the strikers.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon.		Elpidio		Quirino
Secretary		of	the	Interior
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on the designation of a Judge as Special Investigator of Labor Conditions, March 9, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the designation of a Judge as Special Investigator of Labor Conditions**

[Released on March 9, 1938]

My dear Mr. Chief Justice Avanceña:

In connection with the designation of Judge Moran as special investigator to study prevailing conditions in the sugar industry in order that the Government may take the proper measures to improve conditions of labor in the sugarcane plantations, to my surprise I have noticed varied comments in the press as to the propriety, and even the legality, of such action. You will recall that before I decided to make this designation, I sought your advice as the virtual head of the judicial branch of this Government, and only after you had informed me that there could be no valid objection to such a step, but that, on the other hand, it constituted a tangible proof of the confidence of the Chief Executive in the judiciary, that I decided to approach this difficult question through the intervention of one of the outstanding members of the bench. You will thus see that in spite of the many precedents in the past, where judges were commissioned by former chief executives to conduct similar investigations, and while I myself was of the belief that such assistance from the judicial branch of the Government would be most valuable in giving to an executive act the stamp of an impartial and well considered judgment on the merits of the questions at hand, I had always felt that the independence of the judiciary should be preserved and, therefore, thought it my duty to first seek your authoritative opinion on the subject. For the purposes of record, and to serve as a guide for future action, it may be highly advisable to have an official statement of our exchange of views so that it may never be said that this Government has ever taken a step involving such an important public question, without previous mature and deliberate consideration.

Trusting that you will agree with me in this respect, I remain.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Ramon Avanceña
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Letter of President Quezon on Thirty-fourth International Eucharistic Congress in Hungary, March 21, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Thirty-fourth International Eucharistic Congress in Hungary**

[Delivered to Mons. M. J. O'Doherty, Archbishop of Manila, and taken to
Bucharest, Hungary]

[Released on March 21, 1938]

I am one of those who believe that religion exercises a wholesome influence upon man, both as an individual and as a citizen. I believe this to be undeniably true in the case of my own people. Of course, a man should love and practise righteousness upon its own appeal to his mind and to his heart—that is, to his conscience. And he should perform his obligations because it is his duty to do so. And it is conceivable that there may be men, without believing in God or professing any religion, to be righteous and good citizens. But how hard it must be to practise self-sacrifice to the extent of giving up one's life for his country or his fellow men in a heroic performance of a duty unless he believes in God and has faith in the hereafter.

The International Eucharistic Congress serves to invigorate the faith of Catholics in a loving Providence as manifested in the Blessed Sacrament. The Thirty-third International Eucharistic Congress held in Manila last year was a great gain to our country in every way.

I offer my very best wishes for the Thirty-fourth International Eucharistic Congress in Hungary, and sincerely hope that that country will be showered with blessings from on high, such as we have received in the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on the Political Status of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, April, 1938 Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Political Status of the Commonwealth of the Philippines**

[Released on April, 1938]

A country possessing a dominion status as now understood in International Law, is as independent de facto as any independent nation, and more independent indeed than many of the so-called independent nations that have the name, but hardly the substance of the rights and powers of an independent nation. Such status is very far from being the political status of the Commonwealth. Under the Independence Act, the internal autonomy granted us is restricted on many vital aspects.

My dear Tommy:

During your last visit to Manila, I had occasion to ask Secretary Quirino to secure from you a copy of the speech you delivered before the Visayan Institute. This I did because I was told that in said speech you severely criticized both the National Assembly and my administration. I have read the speech carefully and I wish to extend to you my warmest congratulations. You have presented your views in a sober, temperate tone, and you have discussed your subject thoroughly.

I do not care to express my own opinion on the merit, from my point of view, of your stand on each subject you have discussed. Whether I am in accord with you or not, is not important; what is important is that you have given an example of how public officials and responsible citizens should discuss public questions.

There are only two points in your speech I feel justified at this time in making any comment. One, about your opposition to the amendment to the Constitution regarding the reelection of the President. I was, as you know, mainly responsible for the clause prohibiting presidential reelection. I haven't changed my mind on this.

The other point you made which I think I ought not let go unchallenged is where you say, "It should be borne in mind, in this connection, that we are practically under a dominion status now."

This is not so, either in theory or in fact. Dominion status has now a definite meaning in Constitutional Law as well as in International Law, due to the well-established political relationship between Great Britain and its "dominions." The English colonies enjoying this status are self-governing in every respect and such limitations as there may be, if any, in the exercise of their self-government by the dominions, are of their own free will as they may have found it to their own interest to covenant with the Mother Colony, which, in turn, assumes a corresponding responsibility. In other words: a country possessing a dominion status as now understood in International Law, is as independent de facto as any independent nation, and more independent indeed than many of the so-called independent nations that have the name, but hardly the substance of the rights and powers of an independent nation.

Such status is very far from being the political status of the Commonwealth. Under the Independence Act, the internal autonomy granted us is restricted on many vital aspects.

I am bound to make this point clear for it is essential that, in discussing this question, our people be properly informed as to our present status as compared with independence or dominion. I agree with you entirely that any change in our political future should be discussed intelligently, freely, and thoroughly before our people are asked to

vote thereon. They, and they alone, have the right to pass finally upon the supreme question of their own future. But their decision should never be arrived at except after a mature, cool, and thorough deliberation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable Tomas Confesor
Provincial Governor
Iloilo, Iloilo

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Letter of President Quezon on the selection of commencement speakers and use of the public schools, April 8, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the selection of commencement speakers and use of the public schools**

[Released on April 8, 1938]

I welcome constructive criticisms for they are always helpful, whether the criticism has intrinsic merit or not. And foolish or unjust attacks upon public officials or policies carry the germ of their own destruction.

My dear Dr. Mañalac:

My attention was called some time ago to a news item published in the local newspapers to the effect that Attorney Yamzon had cancelled his engagement as commencement speaker at the Arellano High School on the ground that the school authorities imposed as a condition that in his speech he should make no attack upon the policies of the administration.

I instructed Secretary Vargas to inquire whether said news item was correct or not, and I now have before me a correspondence from the Director of Education relating to this matter.

You will remember that some time ago, I sent for you and for Assistant Director Salvador, and informed you of my wish that the public schools be not converted into forums for the discussion of political questions, but rather of subject matters that would be of immediate value to the students and commensurate with their capacity for absorbing the matters discussed, bearing in mind the instruction so far received by them. The discussion of this subject was brought about by a speech delivered by a member of the Provincial Board of Ilocos Norte, Dr. Damaso T. Samonte, who, according to the papers, in addressing the student body of the Laoag High School, talked on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Dr. Samonte makes, among others, the following statement regarding that speech:

“It is true I assailed the National Assembly for its attitude on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. I did not only assail it. I attacked it also as much as I could and as savagely as I could make it.”

In view of this apparent lack of sense of responsibility on the part of Doctor Samonte, as judged by his own statement quoted above, and knowing that not infrequently speeches of the same tenor are delivered in the high schools and even in the elementary schools, I deemed it necessary to call your attention and that of the Assistant Director of Education to the need of stopping such practice that, at least, indirectly violates civil service rules which bar political activities from government offices and schools, but worse still serves to misdirect the mind of our youth, if not fill it with wrong and false ideas. I, therefore, advised you and the Assistant Director of Education to instruct the school authorities to be careful in the selection of speakers who will address our schools and, in any event, to inform such speakers that they must not indulge in the discussion of political questions. You then answered me that it would be too late to apply this rule in the case of commencement speakers for this year, for they had already been chosen and invited, and the invitations accepted. In view of your statement I agreed that the rule as laid down by me be deferred till the incoming school year.

From the papers sent to this office by the Director of Education it appears that the principal of the Arellano High School told Attorney Yamzon that in this commencement speech he must not attack the policies of the administration.

I am not informed upon what authority the principal of the Arellano High School made this statement to Attorney Yamzon but certainly the statement does not conform with the instructions I have given you, nor does it express my purpose or objective.

I am not attempting to prohibit criticism of my administration. This is a matter of little concern to me, politically or otherwise. In fact, I welcome constructive criticisms for they are always helpful, whether the criticism has intrinsic merit or not. And foolish or unjust attacks upon public officials or policies carry the germ of their own destruction.

What I am interested in, and very much so indeed, is to avoid making the schools political battlefields, or places for the exhibition of crass ignorance on the part of the orator, or the dissemination of subversive ideas among boys and girls who, because of their immaturity, are not prepared to discriminate intelligently as between what is right and what is wrong, and what is wise and what is unwise.

Under the Constitution, it is the duty of the Government to use the school as the means for providing our country with upright men and women—citizens with high character and noble ideals, devoted to the performance of their duties, lovers of the art of peace and capable of earning their livelihood and contributing to the well-being of the community.

It is to be regretted that the mistake committed by the school authorities should have happened precisely in the case of Attorney Yamzon who is not only known as a first-rate orator but also as a highly cultured person, and certainly a responsible citizen who could be dependent upon to have chosen a subject from the discussion of which the students of the Arellano High School would have benefited.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Dr. Gabriel K. Mañalac
Undersecretary of Public Instruction
Manila

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Letter of President Quezon to the Speaker of the National Assembly on Nepotism in the Government service,
April 13, 1938**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Speaker of the National Assembly on Nepotism in the Government service**

[Released on April 13, 1938]

Irrespective of any law or regulation, the sense of delicacy should inhibit one from taking official cognizance of any case involving one's relative.

SIR:

Referring to your 6th indorsement of March 31, 1938, on the appointment of Mr. Jose T. Tecson, involving the interpretation of Executive Order No. 111, I find the facts to be as follows:

* * * * *

On January 10, 1938, Acting Director Rodriguez signed the promotional appointment in question of Mr. Jose T. Tecson from clerk at P984 to chief of section at P1,800 per annum—a promotion of almost seven grades at once. The appointment was submitted by Acting Director Rodriguez to the Speaker of the National Assembly, through the Commissioner of Civil Service, together with a rather lengthy letter of laudatory recommendation in favor of the appointee in an attempt to justify the extraordinary promotion. * * *

Upon official inquiry by the Commissioner of Civil Service, it was found out that Mr. Jose T. Tecson is a brother-in-law of Assistant Director Rodriguez of the National Library.

In the meantime an employee of the National Library, who for obvious reason did not want to sign his full name, wrote to the Commissioner of Civil Service under date of January 20, 1938, complaining against the proposed promotion of Mr. Tecson as being an act of partiality of the Acting Director in favor of his own brother-in-law and a preterition (postergacion) of older employees to the detriment of the morale of the service.

The Commissioner of Civil Service held that the proposed appointment falls within the prohibition contained in Rule 1 of Executive Order No. 111, of August 30, 1937. Appeal is now made to the President for a ruling in the premises.

Executive Order No. 111, prohibiting and restricting the practice of nepotism, was promulgated with a view to improving the morale of the public service. It reads in part as follows:

1. All appointments in the National, provincial, and municipal governments or in any branch and instrumentality thereof, whether in the classified or unclassified service, made in favor of a relative of the appointing authority or of the persons exercising immediate supervision over him, are hereby prohibited.
2. When there are already two or more members of one family in an office of Bureau, no other member of such family shall be eligible for appointment to any position therein.

As used in this Order, the word 'relative' and the members of the family referred to herein are those related within the third degree either of consanguinity or of affinity.”

* * * *

In order to give immediate effect to this Order, cases of previous appointments which are in contravention thereof shall be corrected by transfer, and pending such transfer, no promotion shall be allowed in favor of the relative occupying a subordinate position or in favor of anyone of the members of the same family in a Bureau or office. In exceptional cases, where the application of this rule would impair the efficiency of the service or would produce a patent injustice, an appointment or promotion may be made with the approval of the Commissioner of Civil Service.

Rule 1 above quoted prohibits all appointments in favor of a relative of the appointing authority. These include original as well as promotional appointments. To limit the prohibition to original appointments only would contravene both the letter and the spirit of the Order. In the particular case of Mr. Tecson, his proposed promotional appointment, which carries with it an increase in salary of P816 per annum, is more important than his original appointment, which carried with it a salary of only P240 per annum. The proposed appointee being a brother-in-law of the appointing authority, I cannot uphold the appointment without infringing the prohibition under consideration.

It is argued by Assistant Director Rodriguez in his 3rd indorsement that the previous appointment of Mr. Tecson is not in contravention of Rule 1 because it was not made by a relative, nor is it in contravention of Rule 2 because there are only two members of the same family in the same office. Such argument is beside the point. The right of Mr. Tecson to remain in the National Library under Executive Order No. 111 is not questioned. That is questioned is the right of Assistant Director Rodriguez as Acting Director to award an extraordinary promotion in favor of his own brother-in-law. If the promotion had been proposed by Director Kalaw upon recommendation of Mr. Tecson's immediate chief and if his relative were only a chief of another Division and not the Assistant Director, who may exercise general supervision over the whole personnel, it would not have fallen within the prohibition of the Executive Order in question.

Without in any way intending to cast reflection upon the integrity and sincerity of Assistant Director Rodriguez I cannot, as a matter of principle, accept at its face value the representation made by him as to the merits and deserts of his brother-in-law. His opinion on the matter is necessarily vitiated by his relationship, just as a judgment in favor of a relative of the Judge awarding it would be vitiated and would not be regarded with favor by the public, although it may be strictly in accordance with the facts and the law governing the case. Irrespective of any law or regulation, the sense of delicacy should inhibit one from taking official cognizance of any case involving one's relative.

For the foregoing reasons, I sustain the ruling of the Commissioner of Civil Service in this case.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Appointment of José T. Tecson and
Nepotism in the Government Service**

1. *All appointments in the National, provincial, and municipal governments or in any branch and instrumentality thereof, whether in the classified or unclassified service, made in favor of a relative of the appointing authority or of the persons exercising immediate supervision over him, are hereby prohibited.*

2. When there are already two or more members of one family in an office or Bureau, no other member of such family shall be eligible for appointment to any position therein.

As used in this Order, the word 'relative' and the members of the family referred to herein are those related within the third degree either of consanguinity or of affinity."

In order to give immediate effect to this Order, cases of previous appointments which are in contravention thereof shall be corrected by transfer, and pending such transfer, no promotion shall be allowed in favor of the relative occupying a subordinate position or in favor of anyone of the members of the same family in a Bureau or office. In exceptional cases, where the application of this rule would impair the efficiency of the service or would produce a patent injustice, an appointment or promotion may be made with the approval of the Commissioner of Civil Service.

Rule 1 above quoted prohibits *all* appointments in favor of a relative of the appointing authority. These include original as well as promotional appointments. To limit the prohibition to original appointments only would contravene both the letter and the spirit of the Order. In the particular case of Mr. Tecson, his proposed promotional appointment, which carries with it an increase in salary of P816 per annum, is more important than his original appointment, which carried with it a salary of only P240 per annum. The proposed appointee being a brother-in-law of the appointing authority, I cannot uphold the appointment without infringing the prohibition under consideration.

It is argued by Assistant Director Rodriguez in his 3rd indorsement that the previous appointment of Mr. Tecson is not in contravention of Rule 1 because it was not made by a relative, nor is it in contravention of Rule 2 because there are only two members of the same family in the same office. Such argument is beside the point. The right of Mr. Tecson to remain in the National Library under Executive Order No. 111 is not questioned. What is questioned is the right of Assistant Director Rodriguez as Acting Director to award an extraordinary promotion in favor of his own brother-in-law. If the promotion had been proposed by Director Kalaw upon recommendation of Mr. Tecson's immediate chief and if his relative were only a chief of another Division and not the Assistant Director, who may exercise general supervision over the whole personnel, it would not have fallen within the prohibition of the Executive Order in question.

Without in any way intending to cast reflection upon the integrity and sincerity of Assistant Director Rodriguez I cannot, as a matter of principle, accept at its face value the representation made by him as to the merits and deserts of his brother-in-law. His opinion on the matter is necessarily vitiated by his relationship, just as a judgment in favor of a relative of the Judge awarding it would be vitiated and would not be regarded with favor by the public, although it may be strictly in accordance with the facts and the law governing the case. Irrespective of any law or regulation, the sense of delicacy should inhibit one from taking official cognizance of any case involving one's relative.

For the foregoing reasons, I sustain the ruling of the Commissioner of Civil Service in this case.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon to Mr. Paez and Secretary Torres on the policy with respect to labor disputes arising in Government-owned Corporations, April 18, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Mr. Paez and Secretary Torres on the policy with respect to labor disputes arising in Government-owned Corporations**

[Released on April 18, 1938]

“MY DEAR MR. PAEZ:

“In reference to the alleged complaint presented by one Felix Cortes on behalf of some employees of the Manila Railroad Company, you are hereby directed to issue a circular to all the employees of the Manila Railroad Company to the effect that as de facto government employees, they should only belong to such labor organization, or associations as they themselves may form for purposes of mutual aid and benefit; that if they have any complaint to make either because of their salaries or conditions under which they work, they have to make their complaint directly to you; that if they are not satisfied with your decision they may appeal to the Board of Directors, and that in case they are not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Directors they may appeal to me; that I shall not tolerate any strike on the part of the employees of the Manila Railroad Company for the reasons stated in the letter which I am writing on this date to the Secretary of Labor, copy of which I am sending to you; that any strike on the part of the employees of the Manila Railroad Company will be taken by the government as voluntary separation on their part from the service of the company, and they will never be admitted again in the service of the company; that the government is ready now and will be ready at any time to replace any employee or group of employees of the Manila Railroad Company just as it is ready to replace all the employees of the Manila Railroad Company if they should all decide to strike; that in case of a strike of great proportion among the Manila Railroad employees, I will use the Army to run the Manila Railroad Company and to protect the Company from any violence on the part of the strikers. It is my desire that the employees of the Manila Railroad be duly informed of my stand on this matter in order that they may not allege lack of knowledge of the consequences of their action if they should violate any of the rules herein laid down.

“The management of the Manila Railroad Company is informed of the policies of my administration regarding the treatment of labor, and your company is expected to give an outstanding example of how a corporation should deal with its employees and laborers. In case, by this time, you have not been able to put into practice the policies of the government in this respect, please take immediate steps to carry them out. And if any complaint that is presented to you by the employees of the Manila Railroad Company is well founded, it is my hope and expectation that you will grant them the proper remedy.

“Very sincerely,

“(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
“President of the Philippines”

“MY DEAR SECRETARY TORRES:

“My attention has been called to the case brought before your department by one Felix Cortes on behalf of the employees of the Manila Railroad Company, and of which your department has taken cognizance. I am informed by

the manager of the Manila Railroad Company that Felix Cortes is a former employee of that company who had been twice separated from its service; that after his separation from the service, following which he had been out of work for some time, the manager of the company yielded to his request to be taken back, but had, subsequently to expel him for cause in the month of November last year.

“As you know, the Manila Railroad Company is owned by the Government and is operated through an agency of the Government. The employees of the Manila Railroad Company therefore are, in fact, if not in law, employees of the government, so much so that the Board of Directors of the Manila Railroad Company generally follows the policies of the Legislature in reference to salaries of the employees of said company. In fact the minimum wage for government laborers which I have fixed by executive order has been complied with by the management of the Manila Railroad Company.

“As the employees of the Manila Railroad Company are de facto employees of the government, and furthermore, as they are in the employ of a public service, enterprise, any attempt at a strike on their part will be met with effective measures by the government to maintain discipline, and to protect the public from being deprived of the essential service of transportation which the Manila Railroad Company is rendering to the public. Moreover, the people of the Philippines have an investment in the Manila Railroad Company worth nearly one hundred million pesos, and it is equally my duty to protect it from undue or preventable loss.

“In view of the foregoing considerations, I request you to inform Felix Cortes; first, that you are directed by me not to recognize Cortes as lawfully representing the employees of the Manila Railroad Company; second, to inform the employees of the Manila Railroad Company who would avow being represented by Felix Cortes, that if they have any complaint to make regarding the salaries that they are receiving, or for any other cause, they should present their complaint to the management of the Manila Railroad Company, and if in their opinion the management of the Manila Railroad Company fails to do them justice they can appeal to me for redress.

“Very sincerely,

“(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
“President of the Philippines”

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Letter of President Quezon on Resolution of the National Assembly expressing goodwill towards and coöperation with the President's administration, April 19, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Resolution of the National Assembly expressing goodwill towards and coöperation with the President's
administration**

[Released on April 19, 1938]

My dear Speaker Montilla:

I feel highly complimented by the resolution adopted by the members of the National Assembly, especially because of the gracious manner in which the resolution was placed in my hands; namely, through your good self and the Floor Leader. I wish to reiterate in writing what I had the pleasure of stating to you and to the Floor Leader when you delivered to me the resolution adopted by the members of the National Assembly that I am deeply grateful for this gesture of goodwill on the part of the members of the National Assembly towards my administration and for their assurances of continued cooperation. As a matter of fact, I was not correctly quoted by the newspapers when in my conference I made the statement that I would support all the members of the National Assembly seeking reelection, for I said more than what was attributed to me. What I said was that the present National Assembly has shown such a high sense of responsibility and has acted with such dignity that the country should reelect everyone of its members. And I added: "The National Assembly has cooperated with my administration wholeheartedly in enacting the legislation to which the Nationalist Party was committed and I feel it my duty therefore to ask the people to reelect all the members of the Assembly."

With assurances of my high respect for you and everyone of the members of the National Assembly and with a reiteration of my appreciation for their proffered continued cooperation, I remain.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Gil Montilla
Speaker, National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on neutrality on the Bill regarding religious instruction before its approval by the National Assembly, April 26, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On neutrality on the Bill regarding religious instruction before its approval by the National Assembly**

[Released on April 26, 1938]

My dear Assemblyman Ozamiz:

In view of the current rumors among the members of the National Assembly, both pro and con, that I am favoring either side opposing each other in the consideration of the bill on religious instruction pending before that Body, depending upon which side is using my name, I desire to reiterate my attitude so that you may inform your colleagues accordingly. From the time that a bill regarding religious instruction was introduced in the National Assembly, to every member of that Body who came to me for advice, I invariably expressed my desire to keep aloof from the discussion until, under the Constitution, I was bound to act, namely, if and when a bill approved by the National Assembly came before me for approval or disapproval.

Before such occasion arises, no one has the right to say that I am in favor or against any measure regarding religious instruction that may be considered by the National Assembly. Members of the National Assembly are informed of the administrative regulations that are in force in accordance with existing law as to how optional religious instruction should be given in the schools. The next move on this question pertains to the Assembly, and its members have the right to act according to their convictions. I see no necessity in advancing my views.

I am glad to note that both you and the Speaker have kept your hands off the controversy raging in the National Assembly. The Speaker, as the head of the National Assembly, does well in maintaining neutrality on a subject which might unduly arouse the passions of either side, and you, as the Floor Leader, whose main function should be to exert your influence in the enactment of legislation to carry out our pre-electoral pledges, might jeopardize your leadership were you to be involved in this hectic discussion.

Will you be kind enough to make the contents of this letter public among your colleagues?

Very respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. José Ozamiz
National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on petitions of people of Nueva Ecija for an irrigation system and of tenants of the Sabani Estate on sale of landholdings to them, June 1, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On petitions of people of Nueva Ecija for an irrigation system and of tenants of the Sabani Estate on sale of
landholdings to them**

[Released on June 1, 1938]

Dear Philip:

I regret very much that pressure of official business, such as the consideration of bills totalling about 100, passed by the National Assembly in its last two sessions, compels me to forego the trip to Sabani Estate with you on the 3rd instant. I hope you will understand and will present my excuse to the people who expect to meet me there on that day.

With regard to the petition of the people of several towns of Nueva Ecija for an irrigation system, please tell them that I am in thorough sympathy with their desire, as I have set forth in a former letter to you.

With respect to the petition of the tenants of Sabani Estate that the Government sell to them on the installment plan their present holdings, you may assure them that their petition meets with my approval, and that I have conferred with Mr. Anonas, manager of the National Development Company, who will give early attention to this subject. Only *bona fide* tenants will be given preference to have the land they are occupying sold to them.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Felipe Buencamino, Jr.
National Assembly
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Veto of Bill No. 3585, June 18, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Veto of Bill No. 3585—
Condoning penalties on real estate taxes incurred prior to 1938**

[Released on June 18, 1938]

The
The
Manila

Secretary

of

Honorable
Finance

SIR:

I have today disapproved Bill No. 3585, entitled “An Act to condone penalties on real estate taxes incurred prior to the year nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, provided that delinquent landowners shall pay said taxes without penalty within a period of one year from the date of the approval of this act” on the ground, among others, that the purpose of this bill may be accomplished under the present law through administrative action as under section 58 of Act No. 3395, the President of the Philippines is empowered to remit or reduce the real property tax for any year in any municipality or province if he deems that the public interest so requires.

In this connection, I wish to state that I am willing to remit the penalty for nonpayment of land taxes in those provinces which were hard hit by baguios or where the prices of articles of prime necessity have gone down very low, on condition that the land taxes in arrears are paid by the property owners within a reasonable time.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on allowing Bill No. 3871 amending the Act creating the National Power Corporation, to become a law without the President's signature, June 24, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On allowing Bill No. 3871 amending the Act creating the National Power Corporation, to become a law
without the President's signature**

[Released on June 24, 1938]

Hon.
Chairman,
Manila

Mariano
National

Jesus
Power

Cuenco
Corporation

SIR:

I have allowed Bill No. 3871, entitled "An Act to amend section eleven of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and twenty, entitled 'An Act creating the National Power Corporation, prescribing its powers and activities, appropriating the necessary funds therefor, and reserving the unappropriated public waters for its use' " to become a law without my signature, pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, section 11, paragraph (1) of the Constitution. I desire, however, that nothing be done on any of the projects contemplated in the law until the whole question regarding the matter has been discussed *de novo*.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon before the National Assembly on the Bill on Religious Instruction, July 18, 1938

**Bahagi ng Kalatas
ng
Kagalang-galang Manuel L. Quezon
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Batásang-Bansa na ukol sa Bill ng Relihiyón**

[Inilabas noong ika-25 ng Hulyo, 1938]

Sa pamamagitan ng pagsang-ayon ng totoong maraming kagawad ng Kapuluhang itó, isáng panukalang batás ukol sa pagtuturo ng relihiyón sa mga paaralang-bayan (Bill blg. 3307) ang napagtibay sa inyong mga huling pagpupulong sa karaniwan. Binetuhan ko ang tinurang panukalang-batas, at ang kalatas ng aking pagkábetó, na násasainyo nang kapangyarihan, ay nagpápaliwanag ng mga katwirang pinagsaligan ko sa pag-papasya ng gayón.

Palibhasa'y nakapagtapos na ang Batásang-Bansa sa kanyang káhuli-hulihang araw ng pagpupulong (*sine die*) nang betuhan ko ang panukalang-batás sa pagtuturó ng relihiyón, kayâ ang Kapulungang itó'y hindi na nagkapanahóng masuring panibago ang panukalá sa lilim ng mga tadhana ng Saligáng-Batás, bagay na kung nangyari, disi'y naari niyáng napagtibay na mulí ang náulit na panukalá sa ibabaw ng beto ng pánguluhan.

Hindi ko hangad, at di ko rin namán ináakalang makabubuti sa kapakanán ng bayan, ang magkaít sa inyo ng pagkákataóng maikapag-uusap na mulí sa súliranin, kung ang mulíng pagpapasya ay inyong inaakalang katungkulan ninyong gawín, kahit na akó'y may beto at gaanumán ang aking mga matuwíd na pinangháhawakan sa pagkálagdâ nitó. Sa palagáy ko namán, ay hindi ko ilalakíp sa iba't-ibáng bagay na tátaglayín ng aking kalatas sa taníng pulong na idinaraos ninyo ngayon. Binubuksan ko sa inyo ang pinyong laan ng Saligáng-Batás sa pagbabalik sa súliranin, kung talagáng hanġad ninyong iyá'y magpagpasyahán ulí. Minararapat kong gawin ang ganitóng pagtatagubilin, pagka't ang mga pagtatalo't pagkakasalungatang nangyari't ibinunġa ng panukalang iyáng ukol sa pag-tuturó ng relihiyón, ay nagpakalubha't gumamaw na totoo, na tila kailangan at lalong makabubuti sa sambayanan at sa mga tao't kapisanan man namáng kinauukulan, ang iya'y mabigyan na ng kapasyahang pangwakas ngayon at kailanpaman. Ang mga pagtatalo't sálungatang itó'y saganá sa binhi ng mga álita't basang-ulo sa bayan, kayâ nagtitiwalá akóng ang Batásang-Bansa ay tutulong sa aking masidhing pagnanais na máiligtas ang ating bayan sa mahihigpit na pagbabaka-bakang nalikhâ sa mga ibáng bansa ng ganyang mga kadáhilanan o ibâ pang kauring pangyayari. Huwág nating pahintulutang, dahil lamang sa pag-ilag na mápaharáp sa ganitóng mga pangánib, ay magkápalikan-liban ang di-maiiwasang pangyayari ng sigalót, sigalót na pakálinis-linis ma't gaanong kagigiting ng mga layon at matutuwid ng kinásasalalayan, ay waláng-salang máuuwí sa isáng págsipisang pagbabakang ukol sa relihiyón, taglay na ang lahat ng mag sakuná't kasamaáng ibinubunġa at kasama nitóng karaniwan.

Ang panukalang-batás sa pagtuturo ng relihiyón, pagkatapos ng isáng masivasip na pagsusurí, ay napag-tibay sa boto ng dalawáng-katlong bahagi ng kabilanġan ng mga kagawad ng Batásang-Bansa. Ang ganyang karaming botong nagpatibay sa panukalá ay di-maaaring di-makabkla sa aking pag-iisip nang itó'y aking pinagpápasyahán na. Kung akó sana'y nagkaroon ng muntí man lamang pag-aálinlangan tungkol sa pagwatas ng mga tadhaná ng Saligáng-Batás ukol sa súliranin itó, a kayâ namá'y náuukol lamang sa ayos at paraan ang pinag-uusapan, disi'y nilutas ko ang aking pag-aálinlangan nang pasang-ayon sa kuru-kuro ng gayóng nápakaraming mga kagawad na nagpatibay. Subali't nais kong ipahayag sa inyo, na, matapos kong mapag-aralang masusi ang súliranin, ay napagkita kong nápakaliwanag ng aking tungkulin at di ko dapat pag-agam-agaman ang nárarapat kong gawin, sapagka't nápakalilinaw ng mga tadhaná ng tinurang Saligáng-Batás, na walá akóng sukat at dapat magawâ kundí ang panukala'y huwág pagtibayin. Kailanġan din namáng pahalagahán sa pagpapasya ang pangyayaring, katulad ng karamihan ng mga saligáng-batás na kumikilala ng kalayaan sa pananampalataya at ng pagkakáhiwalay ng Iglesya at ng Estado, ang Saligáng-Batás natin ay táhasang nagbabawal ng paggamit na túwiran o di-túwiran ng alinmang relihiyón sa alinmang pag-aari ng bayan. Kailanma't paháhalagahán ang lahat ng mga tadhanang itó ng Saligáng-Batás, ay di maaaring di natin kilanlin ang katotohanang ang tadhanang náuukol sa pagtuturo ng relihiyón ay walang isinasaad na anumáng bawas o takdá sa mga karapatan, na sana'y nalagay sa Saligáng-Batás kung mayroon, mahangá pa'y nagpápahintulot ng isang kaluwagang sana'y wala kung di sadyang isinaad. Kung susundin ang talagang pag-unawá sa mga batás, ay mapípilitan tayong magbigáy ng lalong mahihigpit na pakahulugán sa ganyang mga tadhana. itó ang tapát kong paniniwalá nang betuhan ko ang panukalang-batás, at hindi akó nagbabago ng

pagkukuró tungkol sa suliraning iyan. Lubos ngâ ang aking pananalig na ang panukalang inyong pinagtibay ay labág sa Saligáng-Batás. Anupamáng ibang panukalang mapagtibay ninyo na pambago sa kasalukuyang umiiral na batás sa pagtuturó ng relihiyón sa mga páaralang-bayan, ay asahan na ninyong labág din sa Saligán. At kung pagtítibayin pang muli ng Batásang-Bansa ang panukalang akin nang nabetuhan, o magpápatibay siyá ng ibá ma'y kauri o kaisang-layon din, maáasahang bébetuhan kong mulí itó at ipababalík sa inyo upáng magawâ ninyo ang ináakalang marapat.

Hindí kalabisáng ulitin ko na akó'y kabilang sa mga naniniwalang ang pagtuturó ng relihiyón ay di-lamang mabuti, kundí kailangan sa mga kabataang nasagulang ng pag-aaral. Gaya ng sinabi ko na sa aking kalatas ng pagbeto, kinikilala kong ang relihiyón ay isáng malakás na kasangkapan sa pagkátuto't paggawâ nang magalíng. Ang lakás niya'y mabuting panimbang at pampatatag. Mabuti maging sa tao at maging sa pamahalaan't sambayanan. Naniniwala rin namán akóng ang una-unang may-katungkulang magpamulat ng relihiyón ay ang mga magulang, kailanma't ang mga itó'y may sadyang relihiyóng sinasamba. Mangyayari pang dí kabilang din sa mga pang'unang tungkulin ng isáng simbahan ang magturo ng relihiyón sa kanyang mga tagasampalataya. Náhahandâ namán akóng magbigay ng lahat ng tulong at kaulwagan sa pagtuturo ng relihiyón sa kabataan ng ating bayan, sa mga paraang naaalinsunod sa mga batás ng bansa.

Subali't hindí na akó makapadadako pa nang malayó sa riyán. Bunğa ng masusing pag-aaral ang aking pananalig, na, hindí lamang sa bisá ng mga táhasang tadhaná ng Saligáng-Batás tungkol sa bagay na itó, kundí sa linaw man ng mga katwira't pangyayaring sukat mahangó sa pang'ulong simula ng pagkakáhiwalay ng Simbahan at ng Pámahalaan, ay dí na maaari ang Pámahalaan ng Pilipinas na makagawâ hinggil sa pagtuturó ng relihiyón sa mga paaralang-bayan, nang hihigít pa sa nagagawâ na ngayong itinutulot ng batás. Sa katagáng sabi, upáng maipahintulot ng Pámahalaan ang pagtuturó ng relihiyón sa loob ng mga oras na nátatakda sa mga talagáng gawain ng paaralan, na anupa't ilán sa mga gawaing itó ay siyáng mapalitan ng nasabing pagtuturo, ay kakailanganin nang di-lamang baguhin natin, kundí alisin pa ang tadhana ng tinurang Saligán na tahasang nagpapasya ng pagkakáhiwalay ng Simbahan sa Pámahalaan.

Itó rin namán ang pagkukurong ginamit at pinagbatayan ni Taft, nang kanyang sabihing ang pagpapahintulot na máituro ang relihiyón sa mga paaralang-bayan sa loob ng mga oras na ang mag gawain, ay isang tahasang paglabag sa diwa at titik ng Saligáng-Batás na nagkakaloob ng lubos na kalayaan sa lahat ng relihiyón at nagpapaganap ng lubos na pagkakahiwalay ng Simbahan at Pamahalaan. Labis na nating nabatid, na si Taft, sa harap ng mahigpit na pagsalungat ng kanyang mag kasama, ay siyáng dapat managot sa pangyayaring naipasok sa isang karapangan ang pagtuturo ng relihiyón sa mga páaralang-bayan.

Ganyan na lamang ang lakí ng aking pananalig sa pangangailangang maturuan ng relihiyón ang ating kabataan, at mapaghuhuló na kung gaano ang aking pagkágiliw sa panukalang ang Pámahalaan'y makapag-pasigla sa pagpapaturong iyan; subali't dí namán maaaring dí ko ipahayag nang buong pagtatapát, na, kung sa ikapagtatamo ng ganitong layon ay wala nang ibang paraan kundí sumira o lumabag sa simula ng pagkakahiwalay ng Simbahan at ng Pamahalaan, akó'y tahas-tahasang dí makasasang-ayon sa panukala't kaparaanang iyan. At ang ipinagkakaganito ko'y bungang talaga ng aking paniniwala na tungkulin ko ang huwag sa payo ng aking sariling budhi't pananalig. Tango pa sa rito, nakikilala kong ang katungkulang magturo ng relihiyón ay sagutin ng mga magulang at ng Simbahan, at kung magsusutupad silang talaga sa katungkulang itó, ay sapat na't labis pang malunasan ang ganyang mga pangangailangan ng kalulwa ng bayan. Isang pamahalaang nagpapahintulot ng pagpapaturong ng relihiyón sa mga paaralang-bayan, nang ayon sa naiibigang pananampalataya ng mga magulang, kagaya ng ngayo'y ginagawa sa Pilipinas, sa ilalim ng mga hangganang itinatakda ng Saligáng-Batás, ay nakagagawa na ng di-hahamak na pagtulong sa ganyang katungkulan ng mga magulang at ng simbahan. Kung sa mga kaluwagang ngayo'y atin nang ipinagkakaloob sa mga páaralang-bayan, ay hindí pa rin mapalaganap ang pagtuturo ng relihiyón, ang pamahalaan natin ay di-maaaring siyáng bagsakan ng sisi't kasalanan.

Source: University of the Philippines Main Library

Letter of President Quezon to Dr. Jorge Bocobo on the importance of good manners and right conduct, July 30, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Dr. Jorge Bocobo on the importance of good manners and right conduct**

[Released on July 30, 1938]

Good manners and right conduct are as essential to a man who lives in civilized society as intellectual training.

We must reeducate ourselves and drink from the fountain of true Filipino traits. Not all that our forefathers did were wrong; in fact we can learn a lot from them.

My dear President Bocobo:

From this morning's newspapers I have learned of the action taken by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines in reference to the incident which took place yesterday in the course of my inspection of the university campus and the Engineering Building.

I have taken notice of the fact that soon after the incident, Assistant Professor Albert wrote a letter of apology to the President of the University and he further came to see me in person expressing his regrets.

It is also my understanding, and you have confirmed the fact in our telephonic conversation this morning, that Assistant Professor Albert is one of the most competent professors in his line and heretofore there has been no complaint against him. Moreover, I know of my own knowledge that as far as Assistant Professor Albert himself is concerned, he is a fine gentleman in every respect, with good breeding. The unfortunate incident can happen in an unguarded moment to any man. I am satisfied that with the recognition on his part of the fault he has committed and the reprimand he has received from the Board of Regents, Assistant Professor Albert has been sufficiently punished both for his negligence in exacting from his pupils proper behavior in class and for his own behavior to and in the presence of the Chief Executive.

I request, therefore, that Assistant Professor Albert be reinstated to his position.

I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to stress the need of impressing upon the student body of the University of the Philippines the importance of gentlemanly deportment as a part of their university instruction. Good manners and right conduct are as essential to a man who lives in civilized society as intellectual training. A young man who, in the classroom and during the teaching hours in the presence of his professor and comrades, raises his foot and rests it on a chair, gives evidence of the lack of every notion of courtesy. He shows a great disrespect not only for his professor and his associates but also for himself. He shows his low concept of the task in which a student is engaged when in class, or his utter lack of a sense of responsibility.

It is a misconception of the extent of his duty for any professor to believe that when he has given his lessons he has done enough by his pupils. The young man and the young woman who have gone through a university should be fully prepared to meet and mingle with their peers. Knowledge alone is of very little consequence if one conducts himself like a savage. Our people, I mean the average Filipino in the towns and villages, have been courteous and hospitable all their lives. Why should the boys and girls who attend schools, colleges, and universities be less mannered than their parents and ancestors? There seems to be a growing idea among some of our youth that

personal dignity and individual self-reliance and independence are better shown by him who can best exhibit rough manners.

We must reeducate ourselves and drink from the fountain of true Filipino traits. Not all that our forefathers did were wrong; in fact we can learn a lot from them.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Dr. Jorge Bocobo
President, University of the Philippines
Manila

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Letter of President Quezon on acceptance of Secretary Quirino's explanation on discussion of Executive Order No. 156, August 3, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On acceptance of Secretary Quirino's explanation on discussion of Executive Order No. 156**

[Released on August 3, 1938]

My dear Secretary Quirino:

I hasten to acknowledge receipt of your letter of even date and to say that I am perfectly satisfied with your statement.

I deemed it necessary to write the letter which I wrote you this morning and had it published in the afternoon papers, because the news about the contemplated action of the Secretary of the Interior and the provincial governors had been published in two consecutive days and no denial had come from your Department. When the newspapers take the liberty of publishing unfounded news of a public interest regarding any Department, especially when they concern the relations between a Department Secretary and the President, such news should be discredited at once.

I repeat that I am satisfied with your answer, which definitely disposes of the groundless publication.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Secretary Manila	of Elpidio the	Quirino Interior
-----------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------

* The following is the letter of Secretary Quirino to which the President replied as above:

August 3, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

Your letter of even date concerning the discussion of Executive Order No. 156 between the governors now in Manila and myself as announced in the local newspapers, was handed to me upon my arrival to attend the session of the Cabinet this morning at 10:15. Up to that time and even at this writing I have not met the governors to discuss with them said executive order. Nor did I have any understanding that I would discuss it with them at any future date. Immediately after the session of the Cabinet, I called up Governor Confesor who, I was told, was waiting for me in my office together with other governors to talk to me about several matters, among which is the new relationship between the governors and my department on police matters, in view of the provisions of Executive Order No. 156. This is the first and only intimation that has been given me by the governors regarding the announced discussion of the subject with them. They were in the midst of their conference when I was able to talk to Governor Confesor and I told them to stop their discussion on the executive order until they have seen the President. I did not, officially or personally, summon or invite them for the purpose of discussing the question with me or any other subject for that matter. I have not uttered a single word to any of them nor to any press representative, much less expressed my views in disagreement with yours on the executive order.

When the governors wanted to express their views on the contemplated abolition of the State Police, I accompanied them to Malacañan so that they may be heard previous to the approval of the bill, which is now Commonwealth Act No. 343. In your discussions with the governors on important matters affecting the national policy on local administration, you have been kind enough to ask me to be present. I never hesitated to come to you for a hearing on similar matters, and on said occasions I have never lacked the courage to present my views even if I happened to disagree with yours. And if there is anything that I would want to say in connection with Executive Order No. 156, I know too well that you would always be ready and willing to hear me on the matter; so that there would be no need of utilizing other agencies as a vehicle of my stand.

So with regard to this Executive Order or to any other matter which has been the object of an executive action, I certainly do not need to avail myself of the organization of the League of Governors to advance my views. At this juncture, I am pleased to inform you that, despite press reports to the contrary, and since the incident with the League of Governors in 1936, the governors have refrained from acting as a body, utilizing their organization to defeat or modify any established policy of the Government. The league is practically dissolved on my suggestion. I do not believe that the governors who happen to be in Manila intend to revive the old organization. Of course, they may want to express their views relative to their powers and jurisdiction toward the local police as defined in Executive Order No. 156. In this connection, I have already told their committee that if this is their wish, they should not hesitate to ask a hearing within the bounds of propriety.

I regret, indeed, Mr. President, that the newspaper reports on the present activities of the governors have given you such concern as has compelled you to write me your letter today.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO QUIRINO
Secretary of the Interior

His				Excellency
The	President	of	the	Philippines
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Plan of Provincial Governors to discuss Executive Order No. 156, regarding the Reorganization of Provincial and Municipal Police, with Secretary of the Interior Elpidio Quirino, August 3, 1938

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**PLAN OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS TO DISCUSS EXECUTIVE
ORDER No. 156, REGARDING THE REORGANIZATION OF
PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL POLICE, WITH SEC-
RETARY OF THE INTERIOR ELPIDIO QUIRINO**

[August 3, 1938]

My dear Secretary Quirino:

I have been informed that during the last two days the local newspapers have been carrying the news that the provincial governors in Manila are going to discuss with you Executive Order No. 156, regarding the reorganization of the provincial and municipal police, as issued by me.

It is hard for me to believe that any Department Secretary should, in an official way, contemplate discussing with any other official of the Government or private citizens an executive order issued by the President without the previous knowledge and express permission of the Chief Executive, and, therefore, I assume that there is no ground whatsoever for these newspaper publications.

Once upon a time, and in connection with an action taken by the League of Provincial Governors on a matter which I deemed outside their province, I had occasion to call the attention of the League to the need of being careful with their proceedings so that they would be within the bounds of propriety. I then said that the provincial governors could not ignore the fact that, even though the provincial and municipal governments are under the Department of the Interior, under the Constitution and the laws of the Philippines the President has the ultimate control and supervision over all departments, bureaus, dependencies, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth, including, of course, the provincial and municipal governments; and that at any time that the President may deem it in the interest of the public service, he has the right and the power to deal directly with any of such departments, bureaus, dependencies, agencies, and instrumentalities, including provincial and municipal governments.

If you, as the head of the Department of the Interior, have anything to say in reference to the executive order to which I have adverted above, it is your right to come to me and present your views, and you know only too well that I am always ready to listen to reasonable representations and I am not possessed of the false pride of refusing to see and correct a wrong or mistake that I have made. On the contrary, recognizing, as I do, the limitations of human nature including my own, I am always willing to right an injustice or to correct a wrong or mistake; but you certainly have no right to express your views in disagreement with mine to anyone else before you have presented them to me. The same thing may be said of the provincial governors; they cannot go to you or to any Secretary of Department to discuss any executive order which I have issued, with any idea of attempting to have me change it. If they have something to say against an executive order issued by the President, which they consider wrong, they should first present their objections to the President himself, and only after they have submitted their views to the President and have failed to accomplish their purpose, may they appeal to such other recourse as under the Constitution or the laws they may have.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable Secretary of Elpidio Quirino
Manila the Interior

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Political Activities of Cabinet members, city mayors, and other appointive officials, August 3, 1938

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF CABINET MEMBERS, CITY
MAYORS, AND OTHER APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS**

[August 3, 1938]

My dear Assemblyman Aquino:

Information has come to me to the effect that in Manila our Party is about to insist that Mayor Posadas accept his designation as campaign manager for the City of Manila in the coming election. While I have not come to any definite conclusion as to whether or not the mayor of the City of Manila and all other appointive mayors and members of the Cabinet are expressly prohibited by law or civil service regulation from taking active part in partisan electoral campaigns, it is nevertheless the safer course to take, as a matter of government policy, not to allow either Cabinet members or other appointed officials of the Government to engage directly or indirectly in partisan political activities. They may make speeches discussing political issues and governmental policies, but they should not be active members of the political machinery in charge of the electoral campaign. I hope the leaders of our Party will agree with me in this respect and save Cabinet members and appointive city mayors from the embarrassment of having to decline their choice as electoral campaign managers. Even in the United States where it has been the practice for years to consider the Postmaster General as the member of the Cabinet actively engaged in the politics of the Party, if and when the Postmaster General is chosen to be in charge of a political campaign, it is deemed necessary, however, that he should temporarily relinquish his post. But I would not even want to follow that precedent in the Philippines. If a member of the Cabinet or an appointed mayor is considered by the Party so essential in the electoral campaign that the Party must utilize his services as campaign manager, the official concerned should first and definitely resign his position.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon.
National
Manila

Benigno

S.

Aquino
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon in response to Secretary Quirino on Executive Order No. 156, August 3, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
In response to Secretary Quirino on Executive Order No. 156**

[Released on August 3, 1938]

My dear Secretary Quirino:

I hasten to acknowledge receipt of your letter of even date* and to say that I am perfectly satisfied with your statement.

I deemed it necessary to write the letter which I wrote you this morning and had it published in the afternoon papers, because the news about the contemplated action of the Secretary of the Interior and the provincial governors had been published in two consecutive days and no denial had come from your Department. When the newspapers take the liberty of publishing unfounded news of a public interest regarding any Department, especially when they concern the relations between a Department Secretary and the President, such news should be discredited at once.

I repeat that I am satisfied with your answer, which definitely disposes of the groundless publication.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Secretary of Elpidio Quirino
Manila the Interior

Following is the letter:

August 5, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

Your letter of even date concerning the discussion of Executive Order No. 156 between the governors now in Manila and myself as announced in the local newspapers, was handed to me upon my arrival to attend the session of the Cabinet this morning at 10:15. Up to that time and even at this writing I have not met the governors to discuss with them said executive order. Nor did I have any understanding that I would discuss it with them at any future date. Immediately after the session of the Cabinet, I called up Governor Confesor who, I was told, was waiting for me in my office together with other governors to talk to me about several matters, among which is the new relationship between the governors and my department on police matters, in view of the provisions of Executive Order No 156. This is the first and on intimation that has been given me by the governors regarding the announced discussion of the subject with them. They were in the midst of their conference when I was able to talk to Governor Confesor and I told them to stop their discussion on the executive order until they have seen the President. I did not, officially or personally, summon or invite them for the purpose of discussing the question with me or by any other

subject for that matter. I have not uttered a single word to any of them nor to any press representative, much less expressed my views in disagreement with yours on the executive order.

When the governors wanted to express their views on the contemplated abolition of the State Police, I accompanied them to Malacañan so that they may be heard previous to the approval of the bill, which is now Commonwealth Act No. 343. In your discussions with the governors on important matters affecting the national policy on local administration, you have been kind enough to ask me to be present. I never hesitated to come to you for a hearing on similar matters, and on said occasions I have never lacked the courage to present my views even if I happened to disagree with yours. And if there is anything that I would want to say in connection with Executive Order No. 156, I know too well that you would always be ready and willing to hear me on the matter; so that there would be no need of utilizing other agencies as a vehicle of my stand.

So with regard to this Executive Order or to any other matter which has been the object of an executive action, I certainly do not need to avail myself of the organization of the League of Governors to advance my views. At this juncture, I am pleased to inform you that, despite press reports to the contrary, and since the incident with the League of Governors in 1936, the governors have refrained from acting as a body, utilizing their organization to defeat or modify any established policy of the Government. The league is practically dissolved on my suggestion. I do not believe that the governors who happen to be in Manila intend to revive the old organization. Of course, they may want to express their views relative to their powers and jurisdiction toward the local police as defined in Executive Order No. 156. In this connection, I have already told their committee that if this is their wish, they should not hesitate to ask a hearing within the bounds of propriety.

I regret, indeed, Mr. President, that the newspaper reports on the present activities of the governors have given you such concern as has compelled you to write me your letter today.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO QUIRINO
Secretary of the Interior

His
The President of the Philippines

Excellency

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Letter of President Quezon on death of Mr. H. C. Anderson, manager of the Manila Hotel, September 7, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On death of Mr. H. C. Anderson, manager of the
Manila Hotel**

[Released on September 7, 1938]

My dear Mrs. Anderson:

I am writing you this letter to tell you how deeply shocked I was to learn of the death of your husband.

Mr. Anderson was not only a very dear friend of mine, but he was also one of the best public servants this Government has ever had. In all the positions he filled, he served the people well and faithfully.

I feel that no words of mine can assuage the affliction that must be yours, but at the same time I hope that you will find consolation and support in the thought that the entire community laments the loss of such a noble and generous soul.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Mrs. H. C. Anderson
Manila Hotel
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on approval of Bill No. 3749—appropriating funds for the establishment of postgraduate courses and fellowships in medicine in the College of Medicine, U. P., September 12, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On approval of Bill No. 3749—appropriating funds for the establishment of postgraduate courses and fellowships in medicine in the College of Medicine, U. P.**

[Released on September 12, 1938]

My dear President Bocobo:

I have approved Bill No. 3749, entitled “An Act to appropriate funds for the establishment of postgraduate courses and fellowships in medicine in the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines.” which now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 401, because I am in favor of its purpose. In view, however, of the opinion expressed by the Board of Regents in which I thoroughly concur, I expect the Board not to make use of this appropriation until after the next session of the National Assembly, when we shall have had occasion to ascertain whether this item can be authorized or not as a recurring appropriation.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Dr. Jorge Bocobo
President, University of the Philippines
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on employment of laborers in public works, September 23, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On employment of laborers in public works**

[Released on September 23, 1938]

My dear Jesus:

Rafael has just given me the radiogram of Abellana and your letter commenting on it.

There is only one point in the complaint of Abellana which I consider very serious, and that is the one referring to the employment of laborers in the public works. I consider it a duty of the Government not to utilize public works funds as a means of inducing voters to support a certain candidate by giving them employment; also, as a matter of conscience, this should not be done. It seems inhuman to me not to give work to certain laborers just because they do not belong to the Nacionalista Party, or because they do not support a certain candidate, or to require them, before giving them work, to help a certain candidate. For the same reason, political preferences should not be taken into account in the selection of foremen who are not permanent employees of the Government. I have repeatedly mentioned to you the things I am now telling you in this letter.

I wish that you would make it known to the Engineer in Cebu that I am tired of hearing complaints about this matter, and that I do not wish to hear any more of the kind in the future. Social justice becomes an illusion if we do not give work to those who need it, regardless of the party to which they belong or the candidate they support. I cannot, without a blush, speak of social justice to the people, if the officials of the Government, from the Department Secretaries down to the last employees of the Executive Branch, on their part, do not practise the policies which I proclaim.

I then appeal to you, not only as your superior but also as your friend—the man to whom you have given your loyal cooperation up to now—and I ask you to find a way by which our partymen as well as our political enemies, not only in Cebu but also in the whole Philippines,—in short the whole people,—may see that we practise what we preach.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable Secretary Manila of M. Public Works Jesus and Cuenco Communications

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon to Secretary Jesus Cuenco on the employment of laborers in public works,
September 23, 1938**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Secretary Jesus Cuenco on the employment of laborers in public works**

[Released on September 23, 1938]

EMPLOYMENT OF LABORERS IN PUBLIC WORKS

I consider it a duty of the Government not to utilize public works funds as a means of inducing voters to support a certain candidate by giving them employment; also, as a matter of conscience, this should not be done.

Social justice becomes an illusion if we do not give work to those who need it, regardless of the party to which they belong or the candidate they support.

My dear Jesus:

Rafael has just given me the radiogram of Abellana and your letter commenting on it.

There is only one point in the complaint of Abellana which I consider very serious, and that is the one referring to the employment of laborers in the public works. I consider it a duty of the Government not to utilize public works funds as a means of inducing voters to support a certain candidate by giving them employment; also, as a matter of conscience, this should not be done. It seems inhuman to me not to give work to certain laborers just because they do not belong to the Nacionalista Party, or because they do not support a certain candidate, or to require them, before giving them work, to help a certain candidate. For the same reason, political preferences should not be taken into account in the selection of foremen who are not permanent employees of the Government. I have repeatedly mentioned to you the things I am now telling you in this letter.

I wish that you would make it known to the Engineer in Cebu that I am tired of hearing complaints about this matter, and that I do not wish to hear any more of the kind in the future. Social justice becomes an illusion if we do not give work to those who need it, regardless of the party to which they belong or the candidate they support. I cannot, without a blush, speak of social justice to the people, if the officials of the Government, from the Department Secretaries down to the last employees of the Executive Branch on their part, do not practise the policies which I proclaim.

I then appeal to you, not only as your superior but also as your friend—the man to whom you have given your loyal cooperation up to now—and I ask you to find a way by which our partymen as well as our political enemies, not only in Cebu but also in the whole Philippines,—in short the whole people,—may see that we practice what we preach.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable Secretary of M. Public Works and Jesus Cuenco
Manila

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Letter of President Quezon on acceptance of resignation of Honorable Elpidio Quirino as Secretary of the Interior, September 27, 1938

[Released on September 27, 1938]

September 23, 1938

Sir:

Heeding the call of the Provincial Board of Ilocos Sur and the municipal councils comprising the first assembly district of said province, I have the honor to tender my resignation as Secretary of the Interior in order to be a candidate for Assemblyman in the district which initiated me in public life nineteen years ago.

In offering my services again to represent the district in the National Assembly, please be assured of my continued loyalty and cooperation in the great task before you as the leader of this nation.

Permit me, Mr. President, to avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge with profound gratitude the reported evidences of your confidence in me in the various capacities in which I have served the Government not only during your administration but also during the past administrations.

It is with pride and satisfaction that I recall the trust which you have always reposed in me during my fourteen years of service in both houses of the Legislature. As Secretary of Finance and later as Secretary of the Interior, I have been afforded exceptional opportunities to acquire a wealth of knowledge and experience in the affairs of State. Certainly, it has been a rare privilege and honor to have been called to serve successively as head of two important Departments of the Cabinet.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO QUIRINO
Secretary of the Interior

His				Excellency
The	President	of	the	Philippines
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on acceptance of resignation of Honorable José Yulo as Secretary of Justice,
September 27, 1938**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On acceptance of resignation of Honorable José Yulo as Secretary of Justice***

[Released on September 27, 1938]

My dear Secretary Yulo:

It is beyond my power of expression to voice the great sense of loss which I feel in having to accept your resignation as Secretary of Justice, to take effect on the day of filing of your certificate of candidacy for a seat in the National Assembly. You have honored the Department of Justice and won for it the most abiding confidence and respect of the people. None of your illustrious predecessors has left a higher or better record than you have in the service of this Government. You have raised the standard of the personnel of the judiciary and you have been a living example, both in your public and private life, of what is expected of those who are connected with the administration of justice.

Footnote: *The following is the letter of resignation of Secretary Yulo to which the President replied as above:

September 16, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

I have just received official advice that the delegates of our party in the Province of Occidental Negros, in convention held at Bacolod, have unanimously approved my nomination for election as member of the National Assembly for the third district of that province.

This new call to the public service, coming as it does from representatives of the people of my province, offers such an opportunity for constructive and lasting service in a field distinct from that in which I have been engaged since the first time you offered me the privilege to serve our government; and, conscious of my own limitations, I feel it my duty to answer the call should Your Excellency decide that the public interest would be served thereby. It is thus that before taking the liberty of accepting the nomination, I am first placing the matter before you, with the assurance that I will be guided by Your Excellency's decision.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Grant of Permits for Public Meetings and Demonstrations**

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on attacks against Assemblymen who voted in favor of School Tax Law,
November 1, 1938**

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
**ATTACKS AGAINST ASSEMBLYMEN WHO VOTED IN FAVOR
OF SCHOOL TAX LAW**

[November 1, 1938]

My dear Dr. Mañalac:

My attention has been called to the fact that members of the National Assembly who voted in favor of Act No. 381 which empowers “the chartered cities, municipalities, and municipal districts” . . . “to levy a school tax of not more than two pesos per capita on all inhabitants of both sexes from the age of 18 to 60”. . . “to provide additional funds either for the improvement or the extension of intermediate instruction”, are being attacked by their opponents on account of having voted for that Act. This is an administrative measure which I recommended to the National Assembly for approval upon the request of the Department of Public Instruction. Act No. 381 itself shows that this was done because under the Constitution it has become mandatory that all children of school age be given the opportunity to receive at least the benefits of primary instruction. In order to give effect to this mandate of the Constitution, although heretofore elementary education, including primary instruction, was the responsibility of the municipalities, chartered cities, and municipal districts, and the National Government only appropriated from year to year so much amount from the public treasury as the legislature cared to appropriate to aid the local governments for that purpose, the present National Assembly did what none of the preceding legislatures ever did; namely, to enact law No. 381 whereby it made it mandatory upon the National Government to assume exclusive responsibility for the support and extension of public primary education, that is to say, from grade one to grade four inclusive, including the construction of primary school buildings; and only left to the local governments the obligation to support and maintain the intermediate schools, for which purpose the said local governments may. In the future, devote exclusively their school funds which heretofore were being spent also for the purpose of maintaining the primary school from grades one to four; and these local governments were further given the power, at their discretion, to levy the school tax in case this should be necessary. Act No. 381, therefore, instead of imposing a burden upon the chartered cities, municipalities, and municipal districts, has in fact lifted the burden which, prior to the date stated in that Act, they had borne in maintaining the primary schools. In other words, under the provisions of said Act, the National Government is helping the local governments by spending many more millions of pesos for school purposes than it did before.

It is the duty of the Department of Public Instruction to give the people correct information as to the benefits of Act No. 381; and I direct you to telegraph all the superintendents of schools and such other school authorities as you may consider necessary, so that they may inform the people, both in private talks as well as in public speeches, as to the meaning of that Act.

The issue raised against this law, if not properly understood by the people, may create a situation that in the end will be seriously harmful to the people themselves, for if the local governments should find that the people are against the levying of this school tax and they decline to levy it. The result will be that as the National Government extends the primary education all over the Philippines, the children who come out from the primary schools will not have the opportunity of continuing their studies in the intermediate schools, since it is beyond the power of the National

Government to also support the intermediate schools after having assumed the full responsibility for supporting the primary schools.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Gabriel Mañalac
Undersecretary of Public Instruction
Manila

Letter of President Quezon on Confidence in the Supreme Court of the Philippines, November 28, 1938

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Confidence in the Supreme Court of the Philippines**

[Released on November 28, 1938]

I am not unmindful of the material interest involved in the Gold Creek case, but over and above such material considerations, no matter how vast they may appear to be, I consider more vital the principle that the Filipino people should show their faith and confidence in their own Supreme Court.

My dear Solicitor General Ozaeta:

Upon coming to office today after my illness, the first matter presented to me was your letter, dated November 28, 1958, forwarded by the Undersecretary of Justice, requesting me to advise you as to whether it is my desire or not to have the case of "Gold Creek Mining Corporation vs. The Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce and the Director of Mines" appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

I do not want to lose my time in expressing to you my very strong conviction that the Government of the Commonwealth should, both as a matter of principle and as a matter of policy, accept the decisions of the Supreme Court of the Philippines as final. Under the Constitution of the Philippines, the Supreme Court is the highest tribunal of the land and its decisions are final, except as they may be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States in certain specified cases. But even in these few cases the intervention of the Supreme Court of the United States is temporary and may only be exercised until 1946, or prior to the establishment of the Philippine Republic.

We have, time and again, avowed our faith in our ability to establish and maintain an independent government. The postponement of the establishment of an independent Philippine Republic was not due to any idea that we required further education in self-government or the continued supervision by the Government of the United States over any of the branches of the Government of the Philippines, but only to the consideration that time was necessary to permit the Filipino people to adjust their national economy to the responsibilities of an independent existence. If we are going to accept the decisions of the Supreme Court of the Philippines after 1946 as final, because we have faith in our Supreme Court and in the integrity and ability of its members, we should show that faith now. I, for one, have that faith in our Supreme Court, and as long as I am the resident and can help it no decision of that Court against the Government of the Commonwealth will be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Let private individuals or private interests, if they so desire, take advantage of their right to appeal their cases to the Supreme Court of the United States; let others follow the same course but not the Government of the Commonwealth.

I am not unmindful of the material interest involved in the Gold Creek case, but over and above such material considerations no matter how vast they may appear to be, I consider more vital the principle that the Filipino people should show their faith and confidence in their own Supreme Court.

It is, therefore, my desire that no appeal be taken from the decision of the Supreme Court in the Gold Creek case.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon.
Solicitor
Manila

Roman

Ozaeta
General

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

**Letter of President Quezon on appeal of “Gold Creek” Case to the Supreme Court of the United States,
November 28, 1938**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On appeal of “Gold Creek” Case to the Supreme Court of the United States**

[Released on November 28, 1938]

My dear Solicitor General Ozaeta:

Upon coming to office today after my illness, the first matter presented to me was your letter, dated November 22, 1938, forwarded by the Undersecretary of Justice, requesting me to advise you as to whether it is my desire or not to have the case of “Gold Creek Mining Corporation vs. The Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce and the Director of Mines” appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

I do not want to lose my time in expressing to you my very strong conviction that the Government of the Commonwealth should, both as a matter of principle and as a matter of policy, accept the decisions of the Supreme Court of the Philippines as final. Under the Constitution of the Philippines, the Supreme Court is the highest tribunal of the land and its decisions are final, except as they may be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States in certain specified cases. But even in these few cases the intervention of the Supreme Court of the United States is temporary and may only be exercised until 1946, or prior to the establishment of the Philippine Republic.

We have, time and again, avowed our faith in our ability to establish and maintain an independent government. The postponement of the establishment of an independent Philippine Republic was not due to any idea that we required further education in self-government or the continued supervision by the Government of the United States over any of the branches of the Government of the Philippines, but only to the consideration that time was necessary to permit the Filipino people to adjust their national economy to the responsibilities of an independent existence. If we are going to accept the decisions of the Supreme Court of the Philippines after 1946 as final, because we have faith in our Supreme Court and in the integrity and ability of its members, we should show that faith now. I, for one, have that faith in our Supreme Court, and as long as I am the President and can help it, no decision of that Court against the Government of the Commonwealth will be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Let private individuals or private interests, if they so desire, take advantage of their right to appeal their cases to the Supreme Court of the United States; let others follow the same course but not the Government of the Commonwealth.

I am not unmindful of the material interest involved in the Gold Creek case, but over and above such material considerations, no matter how vast they may appear to be, I consider more vital the principle that the Filipino people should show their faith and confidence in their own Supreme Court.

It is, therefore, my desire that no appeal be taken from the decision of the Supreme Court in the Gold Creek case.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon.
Solicitor
Manila

Roman

Ozaeta
General

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Letter of President Quezon on Employment of Trainee Graduates, February 23, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

EMPLOYMENT OF TRAINEE GRADUATES

[February 23, 1939]

My dear General Valdes:

For some time past, I have been seeking for some method whereby the Government might be assured of maximum returns, both in peace and war, from its financial and moral investments in trainee graduates. These young men, to whom the Government has given five to eleven months of intensive military training, return to their homes and to their former habits of life, and are thereafter no longer governmentally coordinated except for assignment to their corresponding reserve company, battalion, regiment and division unit, and, as a part of such units, assembled for active training during the ensuing ten years until they have received a total of about forty days of such unit instruction.

More and more it has been impressed upon me that unless something is done to keep these men constantly interested and unless the Government concerns itself actively in their economic future, so that they may be fit and qualified to render efficient service, it is more than probable that their full potential value to the Government, in time of emergency, will never be realized. Moreover, this useless and serious wastage will extend to the valuable by-products of military training, which are so important to the nation. Indeed, I have, on many occasions, stated that I would require universal military training for the youth of the land, even if I were certain that the Philippines would never have to face an enemy from without or within. I consider that the physical, mental and moral benefits derived by our young men from military training, and the resultant effect in making better citizens of them, more than justify in themselves the sixteen million pesos or more that we spend annually on the Army.

As one step toward the accomplishment of the purpose outlined above, I have directed that, in the development of Mindanao, trainee graduates should be given every opportunity, and it is partly for this reason that I chose General Santos, the former Chief of Staff, to be in charge of that great enterprise. But this is not enough, if for no other reason than that all trainees will not find it desirable, or even possible, to go to Mindanao. We need a system of general contacts, and of such group support and guidance as is practical and as will tend to develop and exploit the sound elementary training these men have received in the training cadres.

Possibilities that have so far suggested themselves to me are:

1. Use of public domain in certain localities in assuring the economic future of trainees.
2. When filling the following classes of positions, and where required qualifications are possessed by trainees, to give them, and possibly also to graduates of Reserve Officers Training Corps, preferential treatment in:

a. Civil Service competitions.

b. Filling all appointive offices of the Government, particularly the Bureau of Education and local police forces.

c. Filling positions in government-owned corporations, such as the Manila Railroad Company, and the National Development Company and its subsidiary corporations.

3. Organization in each municipality of patriotic associations of Reservists, corresponding, wherever possible, to a tactical unit of the Reserve Army, and sponsored and aided by governors, mayors, and other civil officials. Their purpose would be largely fraternal and social, but they would likewise serve constantly as a practical connecting link between the Government and the individuals belonging to these organizations. By granting to these bodies the privilege of wearing the uniform in parades and other civic functions, the prestige of the individual would be raised, and the collective influence of trainees would be enhanced.

It is essential that exhaustive studies of this problem should be immediately instituted by a competent group, so that every possible angle may be thoroughly explored. To conduct the necessary investigations, and to make appropriate recommendations I intend to create a committee in which will be represented the Army, the Bureau of Education, the Bureau of Civil Service, the Mindanao Development Project and possibly other governmental agencies. Before creating this committee I should like to have, at your early convenience, your comments and suggestions on this general subject.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Major
Chief
Philippine
Manila

General

Basilio
of

J.

Valdes
Staff
Army

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on case of Former Assemblyman Justiniano S. Montano of Cavite, April 15, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**CASE OF FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN JUSTINIANO
S. MONTANO OF CAVITE**

[April 15, 1939]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

May I congratulate you and Floor Leader Paredes, as well as the other members of the National Assembly, for the courageous action you have taken in the case of Assemblyman Justiniano Montano from Cavite? By this act, the National Assembly has set up a high standard of integrity in the public service, which the other branches of the Government will be compelled to emulate, with a most wholesome effect upon the country.

The National Assembly is vested by the Constitution with the sole power to remove from office, through impeachment proceedings, the highest officers of the Government—the President, the Vice President, the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Auditor General—on conviction of culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, or other high crimes. In taking the action you have taken against your own colleague, you, the members of the National Assembly, have given public notice not only of your conception of the degree of integrity required of public officials, but also of the manner in which those who fail to live up to such requirement should be dealt with. Thus, by a single stroke of the pen, so to speak, you have made it patent to everyone that you will neither tolerate, nor compromise with, any lack-of integrity on the part of those who occupy positions of trust and confidence in the service of the Government.

The practice of allowing considerations of politics, kinship, or friendship to influence the determination of the guilt or innocence of a particular person has justly received a deathblow, thanks to the strict impartiality with which you have judged your own colleague, Assemblyman Montano, who is a member of our own party, who was our own official candidate in Cavite, and who is a personal and intimate friend of many of us, besides being a talented young man. It was he who, after a series of defeats of our party in his province where the Opposition held sway for many years, carried the banner of our party to victory in three successive campaigns. But all this has served him nothing when he was found wanting in integrity by the Assembly. While perhaps his colleagues in the National Assembly and his friends and political associates outside can not fail to regret the disgrace which has befallen Assemblyman Montano, yet, since he has merited the punishment meted out to him, all good citizens may well be thankful that the National Assembly has come out of this hard test with credit both to itself and to the people it represents.

Incidentally, this unfortunate and regrettable occurrence has demonstrated that the Nationalist Party needs no Opposition to urge it to perform its duty under the Constitution and the laws.

Once more, I wish to express to you, to Floor Leader Paredes, and to the other members of the National Assembly my warmest congratulations for the great service you have rendered to the nation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
The
National
Manila

Honorable
Speaker
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on withdrawal of nomination of Honorable Marcial Kasilag for Under-Secretaryship of Public Works and Communications, April 17, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION OF HON. MARCIAL KASILAG
FOR UNDER-SECRETARYSHIP OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

[April 17, 1939]

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to inform you that I have decided to reconsider the nomination of the Honorable Marcial Kasilag for under-secretaryship of Public Works and Communications, sent to the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly on March 9, 1939; and the said nomination is, therefore, hereby withdrawn from your consideration.

Since making this nomination there has come to my knowledge the decision of the Court of Appeals in the case of Rafaela Rodriguez et al. vs. Marcial Kasilag, CA-G. R. No. 1348, wherein the integrity of Mr. Kasilag is put in question. I am informed that an application for a writ of certiorari has been filed with the Supreme Court to secure a review of this decision. While the pronouncements of the courts are not necessarily binding on the Executive, I deem it in the best interest of the public service, in the present instance, to withdraw the nomination of Mr. Kasilag pending the final determination of the case by the Supreme Court.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The	Commission	on	Appointments
National			Assembly
Manila			

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on presentation of American and Filipino flags to the President of the United States, May 9, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN AND FILIPINO FLAGS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

[May 9, 1939]

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

You will remember that in my speech in connection with the Filipinos' celebration of the fortieth anniversary of America's occupation of the Philippines, on the Luneta on August 13 of last year, I publicly presented to you an American and a Filipino flag with the request that they be conveyed to the President of the United States as a symbol of the eternal friendship between the American and the Filipino peoples. Upon your departure for the United States, may I not avail myself of the opportunity to ask you to be the bearer of the cordial greetings of the Filipino people to President Roosevelt and the American people, together with these flags which are encased in Philippine wood? A letter addressed to President Roosevelt accompanies the case bearing the flags.

I wish to make of record here my deep appreciation of the sympathetic and helpful attitude that you have shown towards the problems of the Commonwealth Government, which brought about a friendly understanding, based on the most cordial relations between this Office and yours, that has been mutually conducive to a highly satisfactory conduct of business between the American and Philippine Governments.

In wishing you Godspeed and *bon voyage*, Mrs. Quezon and I hope that you will be successful in all your ventures in life, and that you may be in our midst once again.

Mrs. Quezon and the children join me in extending greetings and good wishes to Mrs. McNutt and your daughter Louise.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

His Excellency Paul V. McNutt
United States High Commissioner to the Philippines
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on approval of Bill providing for promotion of the Livestock Industry through establishment of Breeding Stations and Stock Farms, June 8, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPROVAL OF BILL PROVIDING FOR PROMOTION OF THE
LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT
OF BREEDING STATIONS AND STOCK FARMS**

[June 8, 1939]

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 969, entitled "An Act to provide for the promotion of the livestock industry through the establishment, equipment, maintenance, and operation of breeding stations and stock farms for livestock and providing funds therefor, and through compulsory castration of undesirable livestock and prescribing penalties for violation of its provisions," which now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 450.

In view, however, of a possible curtailment in the income of the National Government, should the coconut oil excise tax be reduced or modified, it is desired that no steps be taken to carry out the provisions of this law without the previous approval of my Office.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
The Secretary of Agriculture and Honorable
Manila Commerce

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

APPROVAL OF BILL IMPOSING RESIDENCE TAX

Sir:

Section 8 of this law provides, among others, that the proceeds from the residence tax will be allotted among the local governments and that one-half thereof will go to the school fund of the cities, municipalities, and municipal districts. It is possible that the collections accruing from this tax will be sufficient to enable the local governments concerned to meet the expenses of intermediate instruction, thereby making it unnecessary for them to levy the school tax authorized in Commonwealth Act No. 381. It is, therefore, desired that the corresponding local government officials be so advised.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on Extension of Period of Repayment of Municipal Loans to ten years, June 14, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF REPAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL
LOANS TO TEN YEARS**

[June 14, 1939]

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have today approved Bill No. 48, entitled "An Act to increase the maximum period within which the payment of loans of municipal funds may be made," which now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 463.

It has been pointed out to me that the proposed extension of the period of repayment of municipal loans to ten years will have the effect of tying up municipal surplus funds for a longer period of time than what is at present authorized, a situation which would prevent the municipalities concerned from withdrawing such funds when the need therefor arises. The Secretary of the Interior has, however, called my attention to the fact that as the bill does not fix the period for the loans but keeps intact the discretion of the provincial treasurer to do so as long as it does not exceed ten years, there is sufficient safeguard to avoid the happening of the situation referred to above.

In order, therefore, to maintain the stability of municipal funds and to prevent any unnecessary tying up of needed cash in proper cases, it is desired that the provincial treasurers be instructed to exercise the necessary precaution in the granting of loans from such funds.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The
The
Manila

Secretary

of

Honorable
Finance

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon upon Signing Bill No. 992, June 15, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**SIGNING BILL No. 992, CREATING AN ADVANCE FUND TO
FINANCE A GENERAL REVISION OF REAL PROPERTY
ASSESSMENTS IN THE PROVINCES**

[June 15, 1939]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have today signed Bill No. 992, entitled “An Act to create an advance fund of two million pesos to finance a general revision of real property assessments in the provinces,” which now becomes Commonwealth Act No. 468.

The law gives you the power to issue the rules and regulations for the granting of the loans. In drafting such rules and regulations, I hope you will bear in mind the need of not tying up unnecessarily for too long a time funds of the National Government so that whenever the finances of a given province will permit, you will make the province pay the fund advanced within a shorter period than is authorized by the Act.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The			Honorable
The	Secretary	of	Finance
Manila			

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Radiogram of President Quezon upon transfer of the U. S. Bureau of Insular Affairs, July 4, 1939

RADIOGRAM*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

TRANSFER OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

[July 4, 1939]

Brigadier
Bureau
Washington,
Through
of the Philippines

General
of
Resident

Charles
Insular
D.
Commissioner

Burnett
Affairs
C.
Elizalde

As long as I live I shall always remember my happy associations with you, the personnel of your office and your predecessors. It is only fair to say that the Bureau of Insular Affairs is entitled to a large credit for the success of America in the Philippines. Mrs. Quezon joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Burnett best regards and please extend my greetings to the personnel of your Bureau.

QUEZON

*The radiogram was a reply to the radiogram of June 30 of General Burnett to President Quezon which follows:

“After forty years of pleasant and happy relationship with your country and many years with you personally this Bureau ceases to exist today. Its personnel, however, will never lose interest in your country or their desire to be of service in the future. Our best wishes always to you personally together with our deep appreciation of many kindnesses at your hand.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon upon transfer of the U. S. Bureau of Insular Affairs to the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, July 7, 1939

LETTER*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**TRANSFER OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF INSULAR AFFAIRS
TO THE DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND
ISLAND POSSESSIONS**

[July 7, 1939]

Dear Dr. Gruening:

I thank you for your cordial message on the occasion of the transfer of the Bureau of Insular Affairs to the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, Department of the Interior. I equally assure you that full cooperation under the new arrangement will ever be the aim of the Commonwealth Government. If for any reason Secretary Ickes cannot visit the Philippines, I hope it will be possible for you to do so.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Dr.			Ernest			Gruening
Director	of	the	Island	Division	of	Territories
and						Possessions
Department		of		the		Interior
Washington, D. C.						

*The letter was sent in reply to a letter of July 1 of Dr. Gruening to President Quezon, which follows:

“Supervisory functions over the Philippine affairs formerly exercised by the Bureau of Insular Affairs having today been transferred to the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, Department of the Interior, I desire to assure you of my earnest desire to offer every possible cooperation to the Commonwealth Government. I look forward with pleasure to our association in this task.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on transfer of the U.S. Bureau of Insular Affairs, July 7, 1939

Letter *
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On transfer of the U.S. Bureau of Insular Affairs

[Released on July 7, 1939]

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I thank you for your cordial message on the occasion of the transfer of the Bureau of Insular Affairs to your Department, and on behalf of the Filipino people and in my own name, I reciprocate your good wishes. The reasons of the President of the United States for making the transfer are understood and full cooperation under the new arrangement will, as always, be the aim of the Commonwealth Government. I appreciate more than I can say your offer of cooperation and assistance to the Commonwealth Government. On my part, I beg to assure you that it will be my pleasure as it is my duty to cooperate with you and your Department in the promotion of the best interests of both the United States and the Philippines. May I take advantage of this opportunity to invite you to visit the Philippines in the near future? I think your personal acquaintance with our people and country will prove fruitful of beneficial results. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable
Secretary
Washington, D. C.

Harold
of

L.
the

Ickes
Interior

Footnote: * This is a reply to the message of July 1 of Secretary Ickes to President Quezon, which was coursed through the Acting United States High Commissioner. The message follows:

“The supervision of Philippine affairs having been by Presidential order transferred today from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, I extend to you most cordial greetings and assure you of our desire to cooperate with you and to render every possible assistance to the Commonwealth Government.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on General policy of carrying out public improvements, July 10, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**GENERAL POLICY OF CARRYING OUT PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENTS**

[July 10, 1939]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am convinced that it would be advisable to adopt a general policy of carrying out public improvements, especially road construction and other works requiring the employment of large numbers of laborers during the offseason for farming operations in the different localities in order that more continuous employment may be provided for the working class.

Please issue the necessary instructions to the Director of Public Works to put this policy into effect.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon. Secretary of M. Public Works Jesus Cuenco
Manila and Communications

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Radiogram of President Quezon on suggestion of cutting to four years the term of Vice-President of the Philippines, July 11, 1939

RADIOGRAM*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**SUGGESTION OF CUTTING TO FOUR YEARS THE TERM OF
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

[July 11, 1939]

Vice-President
Washington, D. C.

Osmeña

Thanks for your message. Will submit your suggestion to the Assembly if and when it considers matter.

QUEZON

*This radiogram was sent by President Quezon as reply to that sent by Vice-President Osmeña on July 10, which follows:

“Saw in press here that our Party has decided propose constitutional amendment changing presidential term to four years with reelection and that you have agreed to run again. I assume this amendment will be sanctioned by electorate. May I congratulate you for your decision to seek reelection under the new constitutional arrangement to give opportunity to people to avail themselves of your able and patriotic leadership during these critical years of our preparation for independence?”

“If I understand press reports correctly that the amendment will cut present term office President the cut should also be made in term Vice-President to which personally I have no objection.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon upon appointment of Honorable Paul V. McNutt as Federal Security Administrator, July 14, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**APPOINTMENT OF HON. PAUL V. MCNUTT AS FEDERAL
SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR**

[July 14, 1939]

Dear Commissioner McNutt:

While it was with deep regret that I received the news of your relinquishment of the post of High Commissioner, I rejoice over your appointment to a new field of public service. The President has not only thus given public recognition to the excellent service you have rendered as High Commissioner but has also given you an opportunity to show the American people the unusual qualifications of leadership and statesmanship with which you are endowed.

I wish for you continued success and reiterate my sincere appreciation of the help and cooperation you have given my administration.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Honorable
Washington, D. C.

Paul

V.

McNutt

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on Ad Interim appointment of Dr. Antonio D. Sison as Director of the Philippine General Hospital, July 24, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**AD INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF DR. ANTONIO G. SISON AS
DIRECTOR OF THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL**

[July 24, 1939]

Sir:

Pursuant to the provision of Article VII, Section 11, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and Section 66 of the Revised Administrative Code, you are hereby appointed, ad interim. Director of the Philippine General Hospital without additional compensation.

By virtue hereof, you may qualify and enter upon the performance of the duties of the office, furnishing the Commissioner of Civil Service with a copy of your oath.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Dr. Antonio of the Medicine, U. Sison
Dean, College of the Medicine, U. P.
(Through the the Medicine, U. P.
The Secretary of Public Instruction, Manila) Honorable

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Quezon on view on question of Presidential Re-election, August 21, 1939

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
VIEW ON QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL RE-ELECTION

[August 21, 1939]

My dear Mr. Speaker:

In a recent message, I have already expressed in unmistakable terms my views and sentiments on the question of my reelection. In order that there may not be the least doubt on this point, should the National Assembly decide that in the interest of the people the Constitution be amended with respect to the term of office of the President. I earnestly request that any amendment permitting the reelection of the President of the Philippines be not made applicable to the present incumbent of the office.

The present Constitution of the Philippines, under the provisions of which I have been elected, provides that the President shall be elected for a term of six years and shall be ineligible for reelection. This being the case, such provision of the Constitution should be respected and given full effect, and since under its terms I am disqualified to succeed myself, the disqualification should not be removed by amending the Constitution. If the prohibition against reelection is considered unwise, the effect of its removal should be made prospective and not retroactive.

Very sincerely,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Hon.
Speaker,
Manila

Jose
National

Yulo
Assembly

Source: **Presidential Museum Library**

**Letter written for President Quezon on allowing Jewish Physicians to take the Medical Examination in May,
August 26, 1939**

**Letter
Written for
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On allowing Jewish Physicians to take the Medical Examination in May**

[Released on August 26, 1939]

My dear President Locsin:

With reference to your letter of August 8, 1939, His Excellency, the President, directs me to inform you that the action of the Board of Medical Examiners in allowing certain Jews to take the medical examination held last May was taken in accordance with His Excellency's decision as acting Secretary of Public Instruction. This decision was motivated by what His Excellency considered broad humanitarian grounds. Realizing, however, that the legality of his action is a matter upon which honest differences of opinion may be entertained, His Excellency would welcome any step to bring the question before the courts.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) JORGE B. VARGAS
Secretary to the President

Dr.	Jose	C.	Locsin
President			
Philippine	Islands	Medical	Association
Manila			

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Letter of President Quezon on equitable adjustment of present participation of Sugar Centrals with Planters,
September 16, 1939**

LETTER
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
**EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENT OF PRESENT PARTICIPATION
RATIOS OF SUGAR CENTRALS WITH PLANTERS**

[September 16, 1939]

Sir:

In its report of August 2, 1939, the National Sugar Board, created under Executive Order No. 157, series of 1938, finds that the following centrals may equitably adjust their present participation ratios with their planters' share to 60 per centum of the sugar milled, retaining 40 per centum of this sugar as the share of the central:

Sugar central	
Calamba	
Calumpit	
Del Carmen	
Mabalacat	
Pasudeco	
Bacolod-Murcia	
Hawaii-Philippine	
Lopez	
Manapla	
San Carlos	
Talisay-Silay	
Victorias	
Janiuay	

It will greatly facilitate the proper solution of this phase of the Philippine sugar problem were I to be advised whether or not the owners of the named centrals would agree voluntarily to revise their present contracts with their planters along the lines indicated by the National Sugar Board, and I would request you, as President of the Philippine Sugar Association, to communicate with the said mill-owners to ascertain their views on this matter. I would appreciate it highly if I can get your answer on or before October 1, 1939, as I propose to submit this matter to the National Assembly before the coming milling season.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

Mr. Placido L. Mapa
President, Philippine Sugar Association
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of President Quezon on Suspension of Cavite Provincial Governor and Municipal Mayors of Cavite, Imus, and Tanza, October 10, 1939

LETTER

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**SUSPENSION OF CAVITE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR AND
MUNICIPAL MAYORS OF CAVITE, IMUS, AND TANZA**

[October 10, 1939]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In the matter of the suspension of the mayors of Cavite, Imus, and Tanza, all of the province of Cavite by the governor of that province, the preliminary investigation which I have personally made clearly shows that the governor has committed such an arbitrary act and abuse of authority that the public interest demands his suspension from office, which I hereby order, pending the investigation which you will please cause to be conducted immediately.

The facts, according to my information, are these:

On the 20th of September 1939, soon after I signed the Bill entitled "An Act to submit to the Filipino people, for approval or disapproval, the amendments to the Constitution of the Philippines and to the Ordinance appended thereto proposed by the National Assembly in resolutions adopted on September fifteen, nineteen hundred and thirty-nine and to appropriate funds therefor" which became Commonwealth Act No. 492, following a long-established practice of the Department of the Interior, you issued a circular to all governors advising them of the provisions of the Act and stating that no new election inspectors should be appointed except for the purpose of filling vacancies.

The mayor of Cavite, after consulting the provincial fiscal, appointed new nationalist inspectors in substitution of other nationalist inspectors pursuant to the recommendation of the representative of the national directorate of the Nationalist Party as provided in section 74 of the Election Code. The mayors of Imus and Tanza did likewise, except that they did not consult the Provincial Fiscal before making the appointments.

Whereupon the governor, on his own initiative and without the knowledge of the Secretary of the Interior, suspended the mayors above referred to from 7:00 o'clock in the morning until 7:00 o'clock in the evening of October 7th, the registration day.

The reason given by the governor in the order of suspension was the disobedience on the part of the aforesaid mayors of the instructions contained in the circular of the Secretary of the Interior of September 20th, to the effect that no new election inspectors should be appointed except for the purpose of filling vacancies.

Granting that the mayors of Cavite, Imus, and Tanza had disobeyed an order of the Secretary of the Interior, it is the latter and not the governor who could suspend them, because under section 2 of the Election Code, the power to suspend a *recalcitrant* official is vested in the Secretary of the Interior. But even in this case the official may be suspended only if he disobeys a lawful order after he has been admonished to comply with the same, and where the act to be performed by him is purely ministerial in nature. In the case of the appointment of election inspectors, the

duty of the mayor is not ministerial. It is he who has the power to appoint and nobody else, although he must make the appointment from among those proposed by the authorized representative of the national directorate of the party concerned.

I am aware of the fight going on between two factions of the Nationalist Party in Cavite, which grew out of the last election for members of the National Assembly. All the suspended mayors belong to the faction which supported the candidate opposed by the governor. The directorate of the Nationalist Party, I am informed, in an effort to secure the cooperation of the two factions of the party in the coming plebiscite, wanted to give one inspector of election to each faction. Since only one faction was represented in the board of election inspectors, the Party recommended that the other faction be also given representation.

These facts are cited because they show the motive which prompted the governor to suspend the mayors of Cavite, Imus, and Tanza—political partisanship. This is all the more evident in the case of the mayor of Tanza who testified before me that as soon as the vice-mayor assumed the office of mayor on October 7th, he summarily removed the municipal secretary. Incidentally, please order also the investigation of this case so that, if the facts should warrant, the removal of the vice-mayor of Tanza may be effected.

As far as the acts committed by the governor of Cavite are concerned, it is immaterial whether or not Commonwealth Act No. 492 authorizes the appointment of new inspectors. The governor has no authority under the Election Code to suspend even a *recalcitrant* official who refuses to perform a merely ministerial act. This authority is vested in the Secretary of the Interior.

This Administration has repeatedly warned public officials against abuse of authority and political persecution. We have time and again announced our determination to tolerate no injustices. The governor of Cavite is charged with the commission of an arbitrary act and abuse of authority. The evidence produced at the preliminary investigation held by me warrants his suspension from office, pending the result of the investigation of his conduct in the premises.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON
President of the Philippines

The				Honorable
The	Secretary	of	the	Interior
Manila				

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Telegram of President Quezon to Resident Commissioner Elizalde, November 20, 1941

Western Union

WA132 VIA RCA PHIL GOVT ETAT=F MANILA 124 1/50 20 1211P

1941 NOV 20 AM 10 55

COMMISSIONER ELIZALDE

WASHDC (DLR MR JUAN BARRETTO 2607 24 ST NW)=

REPLYING YOUR CABLEGRAM NOVEMBER FOURTEENTH REGARDING EMERGENCY PRICE CONTROL MEASURE MAKING IT APPLICABLE TO PHILIPPINES I FULLY CONCUR WITH YOUR VIEW THAT THIS WOULD BE AN ENCROACHMENT UPON OUR AUTONOMY UNDER INDEPENDENCE ACT STOP THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AVOIDING PRICE DISLOCATIONS AND INFLATIONARY TENDENCIES IN PHILIPPINES IS MAINLY=

WA32 2/50=

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS LONG AGO TO MEET THIS PROBLEM STOP YOU SHOULD THEREFORE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO ELIMINATE APPLICABILITY OF MEASURE TO PHILIPPINES AND IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE TO AMEND PROVISION SO THAT IT WILL MERELY AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES TO=

WA132 3/24

APPLY THE ACT TO PHILIPPINES IF IN HIS OPINION IT SHOULD BE NECESSARY TO DO SO TO BE ADMINISTERED BY PHILIPPINES COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES=

QUEZON.

Telegram from President Quezon to President Roosevelt, December 9, 1941

I have just arrived from Baguio the summer capital of the Philippines where I was when the war between the United States and Japan was declared. I have covered the country by automobile and I am happy to report that everywhere the people are loyal to America and determined to stand by her in testimony of their gratitude to you, to the Government of the United States and to the American people and because of their devotion to the cause of Democracy and freedom. I am proud therefore that the reiterated assurance I have given to you to the effect that you can count upon us was no empty word.

Manuel L. Quezon

Letter of President Quezon to Field Marshal MacArthur, January 28, 1942

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Field Marshal MacArthur**

[Fort Mills, January 28, 1942]

My dear General MacArthur:

I have been mortified by the radio broadcast from Tokio asserting that a new government has been established in the Philippines, which government has pledged its conformity with Japan's new East Asia policy.

I know what the real sentiments of my people are and I am certain that their stand has not changed despite the military reverses of our forces. I am likewise convinced of the loyalty of the men who have accepted positions in the so-called new government.

I want you, therefore, to give publicity of the following statement: "The determination of the Filipino people to continue fighting side by side with the United States until victory is won has in no way been weakened by the temporary reverses suffered by our arms. We are convinced that our sacrifices will be crowned with victory in the end and in that conviction we shall continue to resist the enemy with all our might."

Japanese military forces are occupying sections of the Philippines comprising only one third of our territory. In the remaining areas constitutional government is still in operation under my authority.

I have no direct information concerning the veracity of the news broadcast from Tokio that a commission composed of some well known Filipinos have been recently organized in Manila to take charge of certain functions of civil government. The organization of such a commission, if true, can have no political significance not only because it is charged merely with purely administrative functions but also because the acquiescence by its members to serve in the commission was evidently for the purpose of safeguarding the welfare of the civilian population and can, in no way, reflect the sentiments of the Filipino toward the enemy. Such sentiments are still those I have repeatedly expressed in the past: Loyalty to America and resolute resistance against the invasion of our territory and liberties.

At the same time I am going to open my mind and my heart to you without attempting to hide anything.

We are before the bar of history and God only knows if this is the last time that my voice will be heard before going to my grave.

My loyalty and the loyalty of the Filipino people to America have been proven beyond question. Now we are fighting by her side under your command, despite overwhelming odds. But, it seems to me questionable whether any government has the right to demand loyalty from its citizens beyond its willingness or ability to render actual protection.

This war is not of our making. Those that had dictated the policies of the United States could not have failed to see that this is the weakest point in American territory. From the beginning, they should have tried to build up our defenses. As soon as the prospects looked bad to me, I telegraphed President Roosevelt requesting him to include the

Philippines in the American defense program. I was given no satisfactory answer.

When I tried to do something to accelerate our defense preparations, I was stopped from doing it.

Despite all this we never hesitated for a moment in our stand. We decided to fight by your side and we have done the best we could and we are still doing as much as could be expected from us under the circumstances. But how long are we going to be left alone? Has it already been decided in Washington that the Philippine front is of no importance as far as the final result of the war is concerned and that, therefore, no help can be expected here in the immediate future, or at least before our power of resistance is exhausted? If so, I want to know it, because I have my own responsibility to my countrymen whom, as President of the Commonwealth, I have led into a complete

war effort. I am greatly concerned as well regarding the soldiers I have called to the colors and who are now manning the firing line. I want to decide in my own mind whether there is justification in allowing all these men to be killed, when for the final outcome of the war the shedding of their blood may be wholly unnecessary. It seems that Washington does not fully realize our situation nor the feelings which the apparent neglect of our safety and welfare have engendered in the hearts of the people here.

Some days ago, I telegraphed the President of the United States about this same matter. I did not receive even one word of acknowledgment. Is the sacrifice that I, members of my Government, and my whole family are making here, of no value at all?

In reference to the men who have accepted positions in the commission established by the Japanese, everyone of them wanted to come to Corregidor, but you told me that there was no place for them here.

They are not Quislings. The Quislings are the men who betray their country to the enemy. These men did what they had been asked to do, under the protection of their Government. Today they are virtually prisoners of the enemy. I am sure they are only doing what they think is their duty. They are not traitors. They are the victims of

the adverse fortunes of war and I am sure they had no choice. Besides, it is most probable that they accepted their positions in order to safeguard the welfare of the civilian population in the occupied areas. I think, under the circumstances, America should look upon their situation sympathetically and understandingly.

I am confident that you will understand my anxiety about the long awaited reinforcements and trust you will again urge Washington to insure their early arrival.

Sincerely yours,

Manuel L. Quezon

Telegram of President Quezon to President Roosevelt, February 8, 1942

FORT MILLS, February 8, 1942. 22:65.

The situation of my country has become so desperate that I feel that positive action is demanded. Militarily it is evident that no help will reach us from the United States in time either to rescue the beleaguered garrison now fighting so gallantly or to prevent the complete overrunning of the entire Philippine Archipelago. My people entered the war with the confidence that the United States would bring such assistance to us as would make it possible to sustain the conflict with some chance of success. All our soldiers in the field were animated by the belief that help would be forthcoming. This help has not and evidently will not be realized. Our people have suffered death, misery, devastation. After 2 months of war not the slightest assistance has been forthcoming from the United States. Aid and succour have been dispatched to other warring nations such as England, Ireland, Australia, the N. E. I. and perhaps others, but not only has nothing come here, but apparently no effort has been made to bring anything here. The American Fleet and the British Fleet, the two most powerful navies in the world, have apparently adopted an attitude which precludes any effort to reach these islands with assistance. As a result, while enjoying security itself, the United States has in effect condemned the sixteen millions of Filipinos to practical destruction in order to effect a certain delay. You have promised redemption, but what we need is immediate assistance and protection. We are concerned with what is to transpire during the next few months and years as well as with our ultimate destiny. There is not the slightest doubt in our minds that victory will rest with the United States, but the question before us now is : Shall we further sacrifice our country and our people in a hopeless fight? I voice the unanimous opinion of my War Cabinet and I am sure the unanimous opinion of all Filipinos that under the circumstances we should take steps to preserve the Philippines and the Filipinos from further destruction. Thanks to wise generalship two-thirds of my country is as yet untouched. We do not propose to do this by a betrayal of the United States. It appears to us that our mission is only to fight as a sacrifice force here as long as possible in order to help the defense of the Dutch and British in this area of the World. But you do not need to sacrifice the people of the Philippines to win this war. Members of your Government here repeatedly said that the action against Hitler would determine the outcome of the entire war. I feel at this moment that our military resistance here can no longer hold the enemy when he sees fit to launch a serious attack. I feel that the elements of the situation here can be composed into a solution that will not reduce the delaying effect of our resistance here but which will save my country from further devastation as the battleground of two great powers. I deem it my duty to propose my solution. The Government of the United States under the McDuffie—Tydings law is committed to grant independence to the Philippines in 1946, and the same law authorized the President to open negotiations for the neutralization of the Philippines. On the other hand, the Japanese Government has public announced its willingness to grant the Philippines her independence. In view of the foregoing I propose the following: That the United States immediately grant the Philippines complete and absolute independence; That the Philippines be at once neutralized; That all occupying troops, both American and Japanese, be withdrawn by mutual agreement with the Philippine Government within a reasonable length of time; That neither country maintain bases in the Philippines; That the Philippine Army be immediately disbanded, the only armed forces being maintained here to be a constabulary of modest size; That immediately upon granting independence the trade relations of the Philippines with foreign countries be a matter to be determined entirely by the Philippines and the foreign countries concerned; That American and Japanese civilians who so desire be withdrawn with their respective troops under mutual and proper safeguards. It is my proposal to make this suggestion publicly to you and to the Japanese authorities without delay and upon acceptance in general principle by those two countries that an immediate armistice be entered into here pending the withdrawal of their respective garrisons.

Manuel L. Quezon

Telegram of President Quezon to President Roosevelt, February 10, 1942

FORTMILLS, February 10, 1942.

The following is the letter I propose to address to you and to the Emperor of Japan if my recent proposal meets with your approval:

Two great nations are now at war in the Western Pacific. The Commonwealth of the Philippines is still a possession of one of those nations, although through legislative processes it was about to attain complete independence which would have insured its neutrality in any conflict. The Philippines has therefore become a battleground between the warring powers and it is being visited with death, famine and destruction, despite the fact that occupation of the country will not influence in any way the final outcome of the war, nor have a bearing upon the conflicting principles over which the war is being waged.

Under the Tydings—McDuffie Law the United States has promised to recognize the independence of the Philippines in 1946 and the same law gave authority to the President of the United States to begin parleys for the neutralization of the Philippines. On the other hand, the Premier of the Imperial Government of Japan, addressing the Diet, stated that the Imperial Government of Japan was ready to offer the Filipino people independence with honor. On the strength of these commitments and impelled by a sincere desire to put an end to the sufferings and sacrifices of our people, and to safeguard their liberty and welfare, I propose the following program of action:

That the Government of the United States and the Imperial Government of Japan recognize the independence of the Philippines; that within a reasonable period of time both armies, American and Japanese, be withdrawn, previous arrangements having been negotiated with the Philippine government; that neither nation maintain bases in the Philippines; that the Philippine Army be at once demobilized, the remaining force to be a Constabulary of moderate size; that at once upon the granting of freedom that trade agreement with other countries become solely a matter to be settled by the Philippines and the nation concerned; that American and Japanese non combatants who so desire be evacuated with their own armies under reciprocal and appropriate stipulations. It is my earnest hope that, moved by the highest considerations of justice and humanity, the two great powers which now exercise control over the Philippines will give their approval in general principle to my proposal. If this is done I further propose, in order to accomplish the details thereof, that an Armistice be declared in the Philippines and that I proceed to Manila at once for necessary consultations with the two governments concerned.

(Sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon.

Telegram of President Quezon to President Roosevelt, February 12, 1942

FORT MILLS, February 12, 1942

The President of the United States:

I wish to thank you for your prompt answer to the proposal which I submitted to you with the unanimous approval of my war cabinet. We fully appreciate the reasons upon which your decision is based and we are abiding by it.

(Sgd.) Quezon

Telegram of President Quezon to President Roosevelt, February 12, 1942

FORT MILLS, February 12, 1942

The President of the United States:

I wish to thank you for your prompt answer to the proposal which I submitted to you with the unanimous approval of my war cabinet. We fully appreciate the reasons upon which your decision is based and we are abiding by it.

(Sgd.) Quezon

Letter of President Quezon to Andres Soriano, February 19, 1942

Malacanan Palace

Manila

Corregidor

February 19, 1942

Sir:

By virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines, you are hereby appointed, ad interim, Treasurer of the Philippines.

Manuel L. Quezon

Mr. Andres Soriano

Corregidor

Letter of President Quezon to Andres Soriano, February 19, 1942

Malacanan Palace

Manila

Corregidor

February 19, 1942

Sir:

By virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines, you are hereby appointed, ad interim, Treasurer of the Philippines.

Manuel L. Quezon

Mr. Andres Soriano

Corregidor

Letter of President Quezon to Douglas MacArthur, February 20, 1942

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Fort Mills, P.I.
February 20, 1942

My dear General MacArthur:

Although I have given official recognition to the services you have rendered to the government of the Commonwealth and to the Filipino people in my Executive Order No. I, series of 1942, I feel that I must write you this letter, which partakes of an official as well as private character, in order to tell you how grateful I am, my own family, and the members of my whole staff for the kindness and generosity with which we have been treated here; and to ask you to convey to all the officers within your command, particularly to General Moore, our deep gratitude.

As I have already told you, I would have remained here to the very bitter end, if you deemed it necessary for me to stay. I am going only because you and I have agreed that the cause for which we are fighting can be best promoted by my being in the unoccupied territory where I could render you help and assistance by keeping up the morale and determination of my people to stand by America. But I am leaving you with a weeping heart, for you and I have not only been friends and comrades; we have been more than brothers. My thoughts will always be with you and your dear wife and my godson. If better days should come to all of us, as I hope they will, I expect that the memory of these hectic days will strengthen our friendship and cooperation even more. I am leaving my own boys, the Filipino soldiers, under your care. I know that you will look after their welfare and safety and that, above all, you will see to it that their names may go down in history as loyal and brave soldiers.

With my love to you, Jean and the boy, in which all my family joins, I say good-bye till we meet again. May God ever keep you under His protection.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Manuel Quezon

Gen. Doug MacArthur
Commanding General, USAFFE
Fort Mills, P.I.

Letter of President Quezon to General Sharp, March 1, 1942

Malacañan Palace
Manila

March 1, 1942

My dear General Sharp:

Major Soriano who was on the front has been appointed by me, with the knowledge and consent of General MacArthur, Treasurer of the Philippines, and I have made him member of my War Cabinet. I am sending him to Mindanao as my special delegate and representative to discuss with you and Mr. Guingona, and the other provincial authorities of Mindanao, the problems that exist there. Major Soriano has been given authority to act in my behalf. He will carry with him the funds that the USAFFE may need as well as the provincial and municipal governments in amounts that Cebu has already been able to print.

In order to avoid the need of sending for funds from Cebu, Major Soriano is going to see if he can have some plates made in Cebu for Mindanao so that emergency currency may be printed in some place in Mindanao. I do not consider wise to have Mindanao, or in fact any part of the Philippines, depend upon any other province which might be occupied at any moment.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon

P.S. I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of the letter which General Jones wrote to General Sutherland regarding Major Soriano's services in the field, one copy of which letter having been given to me by General Sutherland himself.

MLQ

Letter of President Quezon to Major Andres Soriano, March 2, 1942

Malacanan Palace

Manila

March 2, 1942

My dear Major Soriano:

You are hereby appointed Member of my War Cabinet without portfolio. You will please proceed to Cebu where you will meet with the other members of my cabinet to take part in the deliberations of public matters that might come before it and to carry out other missions that I have entrusted to you. After you have completed your work in Cebu you will please proceed to Mindanao where you will be my Special Representative before General Sharpe. In matters affecting Civil Government in all the provinces of Mindanao except Surigao, I am designating you as my Special Delegate to act for me if and when prompt action may be absolutely necessary. You will please discuss the civil matters with Mr. Guingona whom I have designated as the representative of the Department of the Interior to exercise the old functions of said department over provincial and municipal governments. However, during your stay in Mindanao, Commissioner Guingona shall discuss with you matters policy to be adopted in the Mindanao provinces, excepting the province of Surigao, and whenever there is a perfect agreement between you two and General Sharpe offers no objection thereto, such policies as may have thus been agreed upon, will be carried out as if they have received the specific approval of the President. I hereby also authorize you to receive from the Manager of the Philippine National Bank and/or the Currency Committee in Cebu, all the funds that be required by the USAFFE in Mindanao as well as the provinces therein with the exception of Surigao. You are also authorized to require the engraving of the necessary plates for the currency to be printed in Mindanao.

Sincerely yours,

Manuel L. Quezon

Letter of President Quezon to Major Soriano, March 8, 1942

Malacañan Palace
Manila

March 8, 1942

My dear Major Soriano:

I hereby authorize you to appoint the men that will constitute the Currency Committee for the provinces of Mindanao. If it should become necessary for military reasons to have this committee sit in Lanao, you are also authorized to issue the necessary order to this effect including the power to make transfer from one province to another of the officials that you may choose and appoint as chairman and members of this committee.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon

Major Andres Soriano
Treasurer of the Philippines

Telegram of President Quezon to Field Marshal MacArthur, March 17, 1942

Buenos Aires, Neg. Occidental

March 17, 1942

General MacArthur:

Your letter received and I accept your plan stop I need the three fast boats in Zamboanguita tomorrow night stop If they are not available send M/V Dumaguete which was at Iligan yesterday and the two fast boats referred to in your radiogram just received.

D o n

Letter of President Quezon to Major Soriano, March 26, 1942

**Letter
of
Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
to
Major Soriano**

[March 26, 1942]

Sir: You are hereby appointed Secretary of Finance, ad interim, and member of my War Cabinet. You may turn over all the records of the National Treasury to Colonel Manuel Roxas, Secretary to the President, who has been instructed by me to take the necessary steps for the proper administration of the affairs of that office.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon

Major Andres Soriano
Del Monte, Bukidnon

Letter of President Quezon to Field Marshal MacArthur, April 19, 1942

Melbourne, Australia

April 19, 1942

My Dear General MacArthur:

On the eve of my departure I desire to write down a few thoughts that I earnestly hope will make some impression on you.

I am certain that, despite your new responsibilities and very high place in this great conflict, your heart is still with the Philippine Army which you have created, especially after the misfortune which has befallen it, not for lack of courage or will and ability to fight, but because of lack of means with which it could put up a winning battle. Remnants of the Philippine Army are still in Mindanao waiting for you to come and give them a chance to fight back victoriously. Until you are ready to return in force, there will be very little that can be done for them except to send them supplies. But there is a group there for whom something can and should be done at once. I am referring to the Philippine Air Corps men who are now in Mindanao. Won't you pick a few of those men and bring them here and constitute a squadron with them so that they might do their bit in the fight in the air that is going on? I am told that these boys can hold their own against the enemy.

The general feeling of depression and helplessness which the Filipinos both in the Philippines and abroad feel would in part be relieved with the knowledge that a unit of the Philippine Air Force, no matter how small, takes part in the reconquest. This would make us all feel proud and encouraged. I therefore appeal to you and fervently hope that you will do what you can to bring a few Filipino pilots from Mindanao, give them planes and create a unit with them.

I would also appreciate it if you could give the Silver Star to General Valdes, Colonel Nieto, Lieutenant Colonel Soriano and Lieutenant Colonel Velasquez. Every one of these men have dared death in Bataan and in the trips they have made with me. I know they have the courage which deserves that decoration.

There are many Filipinos who are here in Australia, all of them either officers and crews of ships that have been taken over by the USAFFE, or Filipino soldiers. I hope the United States Government will take care of them and pay their salaries until the war is over. Should there be cases that the American Army cannot properly care for, I give you full authority to order Lieutenant Colonel Jose McMicking, whom I am appointing as disbursing officer, to pay such sums of money as you may think equitable. I am leaving sufficient amounts in the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to cover this.

It is hardly necessary for me to reiterate my grateful appreciation for everything that you, General Sutherland, General Marshall, and the rest of the men under your command, including General Sharp of Mindanao and others, have done for me. I confidently expect that we are not parting company for good, but that we will continue the work which we have started of making the Philippines and the Filipino people prosperous, happy, free, and a strong nation.

With love to you, Mrs. MacArthur, and Arthur I am, as ever,

Devotedly yours,

MANUEL L. QUEZON

Letter of President Quezon to Honorable Cordell Hull

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Honorable Cordell Hull**

[Sent in Washington, D. C., June 10, 1942]

Hon. Cordell Hull
Secretary of State of the United States of America Washington, D. C.

Mr. Secretary:

I The people of the Philippines are wholeheartedly devoted to liberty and fully subscribe to the principle set forth in that great document known as the Atlantic Charter which was proclaimed by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill on August 14, 1941.

We have been battling since December 7, 1941 to preserve our country from the menace of Japanese aggression. Although a large part of our territory is overrun by Japanese military forces, our soldiers are still actively engaged in meeting and harassing the foe wherever possible. We do not intend to be cowed by the armed might of Japan. We wish to continue the struggle with every means in our power.

We desire to associate ourselves with those nations which are fighting for the preservation of life and liberty against the forces of barbarism that seek world domination. Accordingly, the Commonwealth of the Philippines hereby formally adheres to the declaration by United Nations of January 1, 1942.

I am, my dear Mr. Secretary,

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) MANUEL. L. QUEZON

Source: New York Public Library

Quezon, M. L. (1942). Letter of President Quezon to Honorable Cordell Hull. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 18.

Letter of President Quezon to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes on Executive Order No. 9245 and the Letter of Instructions, October 10, 1942

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes on Executive Order No. 9245 and the Letter of Instructions**

[Sent to Washington, D. C., October 10, 1942]

Washington, D. C.
October 10, 1942

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have read the Executive Order No. 9245 and the letter of instructions of the President issued in pursuance thereto, both dated September 16, 1942.

You will remember that in our last meeting it was agreed that Under-Secretary Fortas and I would meet again to discuss the plan for carrying out the directives of the President, but unfortunately Mr. Fortas did not have time to see me before his trip to the West; hence this letter.

Of course, both the Executive Order and the letter of instructions are perfectly in accordance with the provisions of existing laws, but I am inclined to believe that neither the President nor you intended – as a literal interpretation of the letter of instructions would permit – that the studies of the difficult problems that will confront the Philippines after final victory shall have been achieved, be undertaken by your office only and not in cooperation with me.

From the very courteous treatment that I have received from you since my arrival in Washington, and considering the plan upon which the President of the United States has dealt with me when he allowed me to sign the Atlantic Charter and to sit in the Pacific War Council, I can only conclude that when I was invited to come and establish my government-in-exile in Washington, it was not merely the purpose to afford me a secure place of refuge which, as the President knows, was never of serious concern to me, but to give me an opportunity to continue to perform the duties of my office and to look after the future of my people. The letter of the President, if construed and carried out to the letter, would make it the exclusive responsibility of your office the making of the studies and submitting the recommendations regarding the solution of the manifold problems that will have to be met when once the Philippines are free from the enemy, except that you are authorized to “consult with the President of the Philippines and other officials of the Philippine Government to the extent that you find it necessary or advisable.” (underline mine) I cannot believe that in a matter where my own country is the most vitally affected, either the President or you would consider it right or fair that the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines should play a secondary and a non-essential role. To be placed in such a situation, it would have been preferable to have been captured or killed by the Japanese for in neither case would have suffered the dignity of my office or my self-respect.

I earnestly and respectfully request, therefore, that the studies and recommendations to which the letter of instructions of the President refers be made in cooperation between your office and mine, by a committee which shall be created by the President under your chairmanship, the members of which committee to be composed of equal number of Americans and Filipinos, the Filipinos to be appointed by me. Such a procedure would be in line with a precedent established by President Roosevelt himself.

When the question of giving further consideration to the economic provisions of the Independence Act came up, the President created a committee composed of equal number of Americans and Filipinos. The President was good enough to grant me the right to appoint the Filipino members of the committee, and before appointing the chairman, he graciously heard my views regarding the suitability of the man he chose. This committee made a very extensive

and factual study of all the facts in the case and submitted a joint recommendation which the President of the United States only approved and submitted to Congress for the appropriate legislative enactment after I had endorsed it.

There is another precedent of a legislative character which justifies my suggestion. I am referring to Public Act No. 300, 76th Congress, entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands, to provide for the adoption of a constitution and a form of government for the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes.' "Section 4 of this Act provides that at least two years before the date for the recognition of Philippine independence, "there shall be held a conference of representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, such representatives, on the part of the United States, to consist of three United States Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and, on the part of the Philippines, to consist of nine representatives to be appointed by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly, for the purpose of formulating recommendations as to future trade relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic, the time, place, and manner of holding such conference to be determined by the President of the United States"

You will note that the Act grants the Philippines exactly the same number of representatives in the committee as it is granted the United States – nine members to each side – and, under ordinary legal interpretation, the committee itself would choose its chairman from among its members without reference to his nationality.

Both precedents are not only fair, but demanded by both the theories and realities of the situation.

Mr. Secretary, I cannot too strongly call your attention to the most embarrassing if not, indeed, humiliating position in which I would find myself were your office to proceed and make the studies to which the letter of the President refers, in utter disregard of the rights and duties of the Government of the Commonwealth to take part, on equal terms, in the responsibility of finding the best means to put the Philippines on their feet after victory shall have been won. This matter, as I remember, was informally discussed between you and me in your office not long after my arrival in Washington, and I was under the impression that your plan, which you then told me you would submit to the President, contemplated just the suggestion that I am making in this letter.

As to the financial situation of the Philippine Government, I myself am not at present fully informed of all the facts in the case. I have asked the Auditor General of the Philippines, Mr. Hernandez, who fortunately was in the United States when the war broke out, that he prepares this financial report, but he has been unable to do so because some information are in the office of the United States High Commissioner, and not in our possession. I am referring to the amount of our currency delivered to the said High Commissioner which we have not been informed whether they had been destroyed in Corregidor or not. The Government of the Commonwealth has been so much ignored in this respect that we do not even have an official notification of what has become of the gold bullion that we sent to America.

I hope and request that you help me secure the information referred to do so that I may be able to give you a statement of the financial situation of the Government of the Commonwealth.

With assurances of my high esteem and warm personal regards, I am, my dear Mr. Secretary

Very faithfully yours,

MANUEL L. QUEZON

Hon.
Secretary
Washington, D. C.

Harold
of

L.
the

Ickes
Interior

Source: **Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Letter of President Quezon to the Wagon and Star Publishers on the book “Chorus for America”, October 20, 1942

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To the Wagon and Star Publishers on the book “Chorus for America”**

[Sent to Los Angeles, California, October 20, 1942]

**Office of the President
of the Philippines**

The Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.
October 20, 1942

Dear Sirs:

I am extremely happy to receive the book “Chorus for America” which you were thoughtful enough to send me. The publication of this book at this time is a great contribution to the noble cause for which the United Nations are fighting, and I hope it will portray before the American people in words so deeply felt and highly inspired what the blood shed in Bataan and Corregidor by the Filipinos has so heroically proclaimed to the wide world – the wisdom and justice of the policy which America has followed towards the people of the Philippines.

With grateful appreciation of your kindness, I am, dear sir,

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**

The Wagon and Star Publishers
Los Angeles, California

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Quezon, M. L. (1942). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to the Wagon and Star Publishers]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Letter of President Quezon to US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 11, 1942

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To US President Franklin D. Roosevelt**

[Released on December 11, 1942]

My dear Mr. President:

From our past conversations, I am sure you and I agree that, in the profoundest sense of the word, the Philippines became independent on the day when — of their own free will — the whole Filipino people sprang to the side of their American comrades to fight the Japanese invaders. For this reason, only the formal proclamation of our independence remains to be issued.

Naturally, the Filipino people feel that this proclamation, for which we have worked and planned through forty years, cannot come too soon. Even the fact that our country is in the hands of the enemy has not changed this feeling.

The Proclamation of Philippine Independence at this time would immeasurably hearten the Filipino people in their heroic resistance to the Japanese invaders, and give new strength to their faith in the United States — a faith which the Japanese are trying day and night to shatter by every conceivable means.

There is only one cause the service of which I believe the Filipino people would be willing to place above the cause of Philippine independence. That cause is victory for all the United Nations in the name of the Four Freedoms. If the achievement of that victory could be accelerated by delaying this proclamation, I am sure that the Filipino people would willingly curb the agency of their claim.

There is a way, however, whereby both the cause of the United Nations and the desire of the Filipino people for full independence may be served by a planned move in the grand strategy of the war. This can be done by making the Proclamation of Philippine Independence the great opening salvo of the coming United Nations offensive in the Far East.

We both know that psychological warfare is at least as effective in gaining real victories as military warfare, particularly when the two are linked in one master integrated strategy. The Proclamation of Philippine Independence would be the greatest blow that could be struck in opening the Battle for the Far East. It would completely destroy the effectiveness of Japanese propaganda in that area and, at the same time, raise a banner of hope and courage around which the peoples of the enemy-occupied territories would rally to the cause of the United Nations.

The Proclamation would thus become a symbol, not only of the good faith of the United States, but even more important, an earnest of the United Nations' pledge to fight the war and win the peace in the name of the Four Freedoms. The Proclamation would be a pledge of freedom redeemed — an advance barrage to clear the way for the armed forces of the United Nations.

To you, the day of that Proclamation would be a ripe occasion on which to give to the world a clear and powerful statement of America's high resolve — "freedom for all peoples, everywhere in the world."

I look forward to an early discussion of this proposal with you. At the same time, I should like to discuss with you the measures to be taken to implement your recommendation that relations between the Commonwealth and the United States be handled by your Department of State.

Faithfully yours,

MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
The White House

President

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Quezon, M. L. (1942). [Letter of President Quezon to US President Franklin D. Roosevelt]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University.

Letter of President Quezon to General Douglas MacArthur, January 6, 1943

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To General Douglas MacArthur**

[Sent from Washington, D. C., January 6, 1943]

My dear General MacArthur:

At last I can write you a letter with the certainty that it will go to your hands without the whole world reading it first. Not that I consider censorship in time of war unnecessary or unjustified, but I think that in the case of the President of the Philippines writing to the Supreme Commander of the United Nations' Armed Forces in the Southern Pacific, the letter may be permitted to go through without being opened by clerks in the censor's office, and when I saw that correspondence coming from your headquarters addressed to me had been opened, I just made up my mind that I would not write you until I could be sure that you and you alone would read my letter.

It has been a painful thing not to write you or hear from you except by radio, and even this means of communication has failed me more than once, for on three occasions I did not receive answer to my cables sent to you through the Western Union, the last being my Christmas greetings. That is that.

The first thing I want to say is that all of us – I am referring not only to my family, but also to members of my Cabinet and all the officials who came with me from Corregidor – all of us, I say, think of you, your wife and the boy, and the members of your staff frequently. Everyone will never forget how kind and almost fatherly you have been to all. The services you have rendered us are engraved in our hearts.

When I arrived in Washington, I did find people who were either jealous of your achievements or suspicious of your future plans. But from the day of my arrival I tried to make clear to everyone whom I talked to that you had nothing in mind except to win the war and particularly, to drive the Japs out of the Philippines. I believe that the President of the United States, the Secretary of War and General Marshall have every confidence in you and give you full credit for what you have done. This became more evident to me when, after reading the article written by Admiral Hart, in conversation with Secretary Stimson and General Marshall, I expressed my indignation that such an article should have been permitted to appear publicly and both Secretary Stimson and General Marshall fully agreed with my criticisms of the article, the Secretary speaking his feelings on the matter in no uncertain terms.

Now as to the one thing in which you and I are more interested in anything else. I must confess that soon after my arrival here I came to the conclusion that no matter what I did could change, in the least, the plans that had already been agreed upon between the United States and Great Britain long before we left the Philippines. They evidently went upon destroying Germany first, and only such force, on land, sea or air, that they feel they can spare from that theater of war they were willing to send to the Pacific. I must admit that in making such decision, this government seems to be convinced that it was the surest way of defeating the Axis. Not being a soldier, and not knowing all the facts in the case, I decided that the best course for me to take was to say nothing in public, although whenever I see the President, Secretary Stimson, General Marshall, Secretary Knox or Admiral King, I always remind them that in the Philippines alone has the American flag been assailed and that the loyalty of the Filipinos deserves some recognition in the form of early deliverance from the enemy.

You must have noticed that I kept my mouth pretty closed – as you have advised me to do.

This noon I am having luncheon with Secretary Stimson. I am going to insist that he gives me a more definite information as to their plans. He told me the other day that he only wants to live long enough to see the Philippines reconquered.

When Captain Philips left for Australia, I gave him some messages for you, but I did not dare to give him anything in writing.

Chic Parsons on the other hand, who is taking this letter, is a man of my absolute confidence. He has been my liaison officer with the Navy and I was very happy when I learned that you had sent for him. Attached herewith you will find my telegram to Admiral King on the subject.

Of course, you know what is best to do without my having to tell anything. Nevertheless, you will excuse me if I take the liberty of making some suggestions hereon. I see no use of encouraging our people in the Islands to carry on at this time the guerrilla warfare or to engage in sabotage. Useless sacrifice of more Filipino lives and destruction of property is all that can be accomplished; and what is still worse, such a policy will have the effect of keeping the Japanese alert. I think our people should be quiet for the time being and wait until the moment of our defensive. Then they should go to the limit. Their main effort now should be directed to get for us all the necessary information that will be of use when we do strike.

You couldn't have gotten a better man to send there than Chick. As you know, he is not only a very able man, but he enjoys the confidence of everybody that counts amongst our people. He is, of course, running a tremendous risk, but he was the happiest man on earth when he learned that you wanted to make use of him.

Not long ago, I sent you a telegram through the War Department requesting that you try to get Roxas out of Mindanao. I reiterate that request. To me it is of the utmost Importance to save Roxas and bring him to the United States. Of course, if he is alive I have no doubt that he is doing a fine work wherever he may be, but I cannot conceive that he can do anything nearly as important as what he could do in the United States at this time. When the time comes for our return, we would, of course, take him along.

Please, General, find Roxas. He is needed by the Filipino people in the years to come.

Another request that I want to make is that you send Villamor to the United States. Many Americans who have distinguished themselves in the Philippines have been sent to America. Villamor would advertise the Philippines and remind the American people of Bataan. Then he should be given the opportunity of learning more about aviation.

Speaking of publicity, I have not been able to carry out my plans about Romulo because after I had secured your consent and his release by the War Department, I learned that he had committed himself to giving lectures on pay basis. Of course, under the Civil Service rules of the Philippines, this made it impossible for me to keep him in the active service of the Commonwealth while he is thus engaged; and since his lectures give him better pecuniary return than his government service, and since it was also his preference to go on with the lectures, much as I regretted it, I had to dispense with his services. When I telegraphed you, he had merely told me that he was committed to write an article for the Saturday Evening Post and I had given him permission for that; but when he also told me of the lectures it became impossible to go through with my plans. About Romulo's book, I had him strike out a few sentences which, although complimentary to me, were not very accurate. The book is a great success. Its second edition is already out. As you will see, it does you justice.

As for my book, I have been so sick all these months that it has been physically impossible for me to finish it. My blood pressure went up as high as 200 and it is only during the last month that it has been going down a little. But just as my blood pressure was improving, I contracted a chronic bronchitis which at times kept me for two or three days not only in bed but unable to speak. Now I am much better. Aurora, fifteen days before Christmas, had to go to Johns Hopkins Hospital and submit to a minor operation, but thanks God she is over it now.

I am considering going to Arizona to spend Winter there and see if I can improve my health.

I am just back from my luncheon with Secretary Stimson. He has been speaking very highly of you and of what you are doing in New Guinea. He says that while there is not going to be a weakening of the fight in Europe, you will be more and more in a position to make your offensive more effective that it has been so far.

I don't have to tell you that my feelings – our feelings – for you are stronger every day. We miss you all and are only living to see the day when we may be all together again.

Love to Mrs. MacArthur, the boy and my best regards to everybody.

Yours as ever,
(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**

Please let me hear from you.
M.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to General Douglas MacArthur]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Letter of President Quezon to Honorable Cordell Hull

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Honorable Cordell Hull**

[Sent on January 19, 1943]

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of January 12, transmitting to me the text of a declaration by the Government of the United States and certain others of the United Nations, dealing with forced transfers of property in the territories which have come under the occupation or control of the enemy.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines adheres to this declaration and in so doing records its complete solidarity with the other United Nations.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). Letter of President Quezon to Honorable Cordell Hull. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 19.

Letter of President Quezon to General MacArthur regarding the war updates

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To General Douglas MacArthur regarding the war updates**

[Released at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., March 4, 1943]

My dear General:

I am sending you inclosed herewith the manuscript of my address which was shortwaved to the Philippines on the 20th of this month — the date when, last year, I left Corregidor for the Visayan provinces.

Ever since Premier Tojo made the statement at the Diet when we were still in Corregidor, that Japan was ready to grant independence to the Philippines, I have been haunted by the fear that the Filipino masses might take it at face value if Japan made good Tojo's promise. Hence, my thought has been directed at finding means of beating Japan to it. At first, I thought of asking the President to recommend to Congress the passage of a joint resolution declaring the immediate independence of the Philippines; but as the new policy of President Roosevelt step by step was unfolded, I came to the conclusion that no Congressional action was required, for the President has, in fact, recognized the Philippines as an independent nation. Therefore when, at the last session of the Diet, Tojo reiterated again his statement that Japan is ready "to give the Philippines independence with honor", I decided to inform my people of this fact, and the President, after reading the address, gave it his official sanction.

Not knowing whether the Filipinos hear our broadcasts, may I request you to instruct the commanders of the guerrillas to disseminate among them, including those who have accepted office from the Japanese, the contents of the speech.

Of course, I never had any misgivings as to the effect that Tojo's promise would have upon the upper and middle classes of the Filipinos; for these people are informed of what Japan has done in Korea, Manchuria, Thailand, and China, and therefore, they know what sort of independence Japan would give them even if she did. But in the case of the masses who know very little of what is going on outside the Philippines, the situation is different. Although our masses, according to my information even while I was still in the Visayan provinces, have been resentful of the treatment that they receive from the Japanese, I was afraid of the effect on them if Japan went ahead and granted Philippine independence. I pray that this danger has been definitely averted with my speech.

The War Department has been good enough to inform me of the reports that you have been receiving from commanders of the guerrillas, including Prager, Peralta and Fertig, as well as from officers like Captain Osborne and Captain Gause, and other civilian Americans who have escaped from the Philippines long after the surrender of Bataan and Corregidor. The impression that I got from these reports is that my people, as a whole, remain loyal to the United States despite what may appear to them as the inability or lack of interest of this government to come to their rescue. In the face of Japanese propaganda persistently carried out to convince them that Japan is the savior of the oriental peoples against Anglo-American imperialism, their unshaken faith in America is nothing short of marvelous.

I know that no one is more interested than you to keep unimpaired that loyalty. Knowing this, I herein take the liberty of offering some suggestions which I hope you will accept in the spirit they are made. I beg you not to think that I am meddling in matters that are under your responsibility.

I gather from the reports to which I have referred above that some of our guerrillas are committing the same mistakes or abuses that were committed by our guerrillas during the fight against the Spaniards and later against the Americans. They are looting and maltreating, and, in some cases, killing Filipinos whom they suspect to be pro-Japanese. From every point of view that is wrong; moreover, it may be of serious consequences.

In the case of Peralta, he has even gone to the extent of criticizing me for not denouncing Vargas and his colleagues. The insolence of this man in attempting to give me a lecture regarding the history of the revolution in which I took part while he was still unborn or a baby, and on the psychology of the Filipino people, would be laughable if it did not betray his utter unfitness for the role that he is aspiring to play in the guerrilla warfare in the Philippines.

Not as an answer to Peralta, but only to make crystal clear my stand in this respect, I wish to remind you that even while we were in Corregidor, at a time when a policy of threat or condemnation might have had more effect than now, I have studiously avoided saying anything that might give Vargas and the rest of the Filipinos who have accepted positions under the Japanese Military Administration, the impression that I have lost faith in them. The reason for my attitude is that I knew, and have not changed my opinion, that the Filipino can best be won by showing him confidence rather than distrust. Indeed, if threat and punishment would make a Filipino loyal, the whole country would now be pro-Japanese. In other words, I am of the opinion that if we want to keep the Filipinos on our side, the commanders of the guerrillas must refrain from persecuting those who seem to be cooperating with Japan, unless they help the Japanese to discover the places where our guerrillas are hiding or kill our men. Prager's report shows that even our Constabulary and Philippine Army soldiers who are now serving in the Japanese organized police force are, in fact, loyal to us.

I also think that our guerrillas should devote themselves more to the securing of information about the number and location of the Japanese forces, and to the organization of their forces than to actual guerrilla warfare. If there was no hope of the United States ever reconquering the Islands, then I would say that the Filipinos should sacrifice their lives and their all rather than ignominiously accept Japanese rule. But knowing as we do that the redemption of the Philippines will surely come, no matter how long it may take, it is not only a useless sacrifice of life and property to have our guerrillas active before we are ready to help them, but it is really to our interest to conserve them for the final strike.

Although I felt that the trip of Villamor to the United States would have been profitable both to himself and to the Philippines, I was really glad to learn that you had sent him home. He has become a national hero among the Filipinos and his influence both among the guerrillas and civilian population will be great. I hope his wisdom is as great as his courage. It would also be a good thing, I believe, if you could send Chick Parsons to the Islands. We need men there who can give our people assurance of the determination of the United States to redeem them from the invader.

The news that Roxas has fallen into the hands of the enemy is the worst news I can receive from the Philippines. I am afraid that after his insistent refusal to be President, the Japanese have murdered him. If so, he is the greatest loss that the Filipino people have suffered in this war. He can't be replaced. I regret more than I can say that I did not order him to come with me to Australia. But he insisted that he felt it his duty to remain in the Philippines, and in the belief that Mindanao would never surrender, I let him stay. Oh! I am proud of him! He will go down in history as one of our greatest national heroes.

Please remember me to my old comrades in Corregidor, and with love to you, Mrs. MacArthur and Arthur, in which Aurora and the children join, I am, as ever

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) **Manuel L. Quezon**

General
Commander-in-Chief
Southwest
Brisbane, Australia

Douglas

Pacific

MacArthur

Area

*Source: **Quezon Family Collections***

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to General MacArthur on war updates]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Letter of President Quezon to General Douglas MacArthur on his affirmation of continuous support, May 2, 1943

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To General Douglas MacArthur on his affirmation of continuous support**

[Released on May 2, 1943]

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

My dear General MacArthur:

I thank you deeply for authorizing the trip of Dr. Cruz. I wanted him to deliver this letter to you in person and then, if you approve, to do some errands for me in the Philippines.

General Sutherland must have told you already that when he arrived here I was about to leave for Miami. It was the first and only time that I was able to make definite plans for a much needed rest, and my doctor wouldn't let me postpone it. My blood pressure had gone up to 200. While I was still in Florida, General Sutherland left, and therefore, I do not know even today exactly what has been the outcome of his mission.

This much I do know. His trip has not been in vain. It has made the American people realize fully that you are not getting the men and materiel that you need, and there seems to be now a strong public pressure demanding an early offensive war against Japan. How long this active interest in the Pacific War will last, and whether it will have a positive effect, I cannot say. Whatever the outcome, it is certain that you have gone up still more in the estimation of your countrymen. The Battle of the Bismark Sea has shown beyond question to the American people what you could do if you had the means. Your wonderful statement on the fall of Bataan has stirred the heart of every American as nothing else could have done. Every newspaper in the United States, big and small alike, printed in full your statement, and they published editorials deprecating the helpless situation in which you had been placed then, and in which you find yourself now. Moreover, a number of Senators and Representatives are making speeches in Congress and outside, as well as over the radio, urging action against Japan. On my part, I am doing all I can. But to be absolutely honest and frank with you, I am not hopeful. In fact, I am desperate. I believe that the plan for defeating Hitler first will not be changed, and knowing nothing about the so-called "global strategy" (a phrase coined by Churchill), my lay opinion is that this means, in plain language, that the war in the Pacific will last so long that I will not live long enough to see my country again.

It is for this reason that I am now very reluctant to continue in office beyond the 30th of next December.

General Sutherland told me what you thought about this matter-not with any detail. He just said that you felt I should remain in my present position, and that there are two or three ways of doing it. He did not elaborate on this. As it has been my policy since the war broke out to follow your advice, I expressed my willingness to accede to your wishes. But I told him even then that I would not lift my hand to bring it about. At that time I was under the impression that Gen. Sutherland's mission would achieve its purpose, or that I could be of positive help. Since this does not seem to be the case, I see no use in my remaining in office.

Here are my reasons:

Everything that I can do in so far as the political status of the Philippines is concerned has already been done, and all that I can accomplish at this time in that respect has practically been accomplished. But what my people need most at this time is their early liberation from the clutches of a cruel enemy. And I am satisfied that I cannot be of any

help to them in this respect. Even if I were physically in condition to travel all over the United States and campaign day and night for an early offensive war against Japan, and if, at the same time, I were to write articles for all the newspapers and magazines, I know that I would not be able to change the so-called "global strategy". I have expressed my views to those who have the power to make final decisions as frankly and as forcefully as I can – the President, the Secretary of War, General Marshall, and others. They all listen to me with apparent sympathy, but that is all. What then is the use of my holding the title of President of the Philippines when I know that I am impotent to hasten the day of the liberation of the Philippines?

I have never been very sure that I was right in going with you to Corregidor and leaving my people. I have always believed, as you know, that I should have shared their fate, whatever that may be, regardless of hardships or death. I abided by your decision – first, to go to Corregidor, and then to follow you to Australia. All our hopes, yours and mine, that we would receive help in time while we were in Corregidor, and later, that you would be able to start from Australia an early offensive against Japan — all these hopes have been frustrated. Only one thing remains and stands clearly now in the eyes of my people as a result of my leaving them – that I am safe and free in Washington while they are suffering and in slavery. What a terrible situation to be in! My anguish, my moral torments, are worse than the physical sufferings in a prison camp! If I were in a prison camp I would have had the opportunity of defying Japan and doing honor to my country and to myself. From here, how easy it is to defy Japan and to advise my people to keep faith!

Dr. Evatt came and called on me. We had a very frank heart-to-heart talk. He has done well. He has helped greatly to arouse public opinion in favor of the Pacific War. He has accomplished more than Madame Chiang Kai-shek. He is a great admirer of yours. But here again, I must say that I don't believe the "global strategy" will be affected by his visit in any substantial way. I am giving a dinner in his honor to which I have invited some of my friends in the Senate and the House.

Roy is for the Pacific War.

Now as to the trip of Dr. Cruz to the Philippines. I earnestly request you to send him to any of the Islands. I want him to go to Manila and contact George and the men around him, as well as other friends of mine, and Aurora's sister. The news that we got from Japanese broadcasts and some of the reports sent to you by the guerrilla commanders that are transmitted to me by the War Department do not give me a comprehensive picture of the situation in the Philippines. I must have someone who can contact directly the people who, regardless of whether they have decided that it is to the interest of the Filipino people to cooperate with Japan under the present circumstances, I know are sufficiently loyal to me to tell me the whole truth. Dr. Cruz can do this. He is known only in his home town of Arayat where, if you will remember, Aurora had her farm. He is known, however, by my close friends. Dr. Cruz can make the trip to Manila with relative safety once he has been dropped in any of the Islands. He will manage it.

Since I assume that it will be very difficult for Dr. Cruz to come back and, in any event, it would take too long a time, I wish you would give him the necessary authority so that he may send to you for transmittal to me through any one of the commanders of the guerrillas, radiograms giving me the information that I require. He does not have to have the code. He can deliver his messages in plain language to the guerrilla commander, and he in turn can transmit them to you coded. I have given him, however, a special code to be used to identify the person or persons whom he has contacted. I am sending you a copy of this code so that when you receive the message you may know who these persons are. I don't think that Dr. Cruz should give these names to the commander of the guerrilla who will receive the message from him.

I have another person who could have done this job for me better than Dr. Cruz, and this person is Lieut. Col. Velasquez. I do not know what you think of him, but I have watched him closely for two years, and I have absolute confidence not only in his loyalty, but in his integrity and ability. Unlike Cruz, who is not endowed with unusual mental ingenuity, Velasquez has enough brains to do what he thinks is necessary for me to get the picture that I want. He knows not only Luzon (he is from Bulacan), but also Visayas and Mindanao, and he speaks besides Tagalog, the Visayan. I therefore consider his presence in the Philippines even more important than the presence of Cruz; but I did not request you to authorize his trip because he is no longer in my service. He is now an officer of the US Army, and detailed to one of the Filipino Regiments in command of a battalion. This has been done upon his

request, because he wants to go back and fight whenever these Filipino regiments are sent to the front. I would consider it a great personal favor to me if you would find your way clear to request his detail to your command and then send him to the Philippines.

Time is getting short. I want to know what is going on in my country before I retire to private life. And I want them to know what is going on here – that they have not been forgotten and that victory is certain to come. I want them to have patience and forbearance and faith. I also want to know what they think of me – of my having left them. My dear General, in the name of our long friendship do me this favor – send Cruz and Velasquez to the Philippines. After Velasquez has done what I want him to do, you could order him to join any of the guerrillas if you find it convenient, or assign him to perform such other duties as you may wish.

There is one man here whose only ambition is to be under your command – General Fellers. As you know, he is very loyal to you and to the Philippines, and his heart is in your theatre of war. You will make him very happy, and me too, if you would request that he be detailed to your command. He is now in the office of General Donovan, an office which, for several reasons, is not doing or cannot do much. By the way, I wonder if General Sutherland had occasion to see a confidential document which Donovan showed me. I was startled when I read it. It was written either in December or January; certainly not later than the first week of February 1942, and it expresses similar if not identical views to those that you have expressed yourself regarding the need of immediate help to the beleaguered forces in Bataan and Corregidor.

Perhaps it may become necessary for me to send Mike Elizalde to Australia next summer so as to inform you of my future plans, and in order, too, that you may apprise him fully of what you know to be the situation in the Philippines. In any event, I should like to know, if and when I feel that Mike should make the trip, you will authorize it. He would of course go there in his capacity as Resident Commissioner and not as a reserve officer of the Philippine Army.

Please notify me through the War Department of Major Cruz' arrival there, his departure for the Philippines, and his arrival in any of the Islands.

I am sending you a copy of the memorandum that I have given to Dr. Cruz. Please read it, and if there is anything therein that you disapprove of, just tell Cruz to forget it.

Love to you, Mrs. MacArthur, and Arthur, in which Aurora and the children join, and please give my warm regards to the old gang.

As ever

Devotedly yours,

MANUEL L. QUEZON

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG PER 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to General Douglas MacArthur on his affirmation of continuous support]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Letter of President Quezon to Frederick Marquardt, May 13, 1943

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To Frederick Marquardt**

[Sent on May 13, 1943]

The Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Marquardt:

I have not heard from you yet and for this reason I hesitate to offer the following unsolicited observations; but I am so impressed from reading your book that you want to be fair and accurate that I feel these observations will not be unwelcomed.

Let me say in the first place that I wish I had known when we were in Manila what you thought and how you felt about the Filipino people and their right to be a self-governing nation. Your book is really a revelation to me.

1. On page 19 you speak of Ramon Avanceña as having gone with Rogers and me to St. Petersburg. This is not correct. Avanceña traveled with us to Japan. The third member of the party was Teodoro Kalaw.
2. On page 29 you said that Stimson wanted the land laws liberalized. This is not exactly the fact. All that he recommended was the amendment to which you refer or, page 30, and which he got.
3. On page 48 you give Governor Roosevelt and Hester all the credit for not closing the banks during the panic in the United States. Of course the Governor General had the final responsibility for the action taken, but since you mention Hester I thought I would tell you that we had two meetings with the assistance of all the managers of the banks. The manager of the National City Bank recommended that the banks be closed and I objected upon the ground that all the banks in Manila at that time were in sound financial condition, that the Filipinos had confidence in the banks and that it was therefore very improbable that there would be any panic; that on the other hand, if the banks were closed it was likely that when they were reopened the people in the provinces would withdraw their money from the banks and would not put it back again; that it took some time for us to induce the farmers to put their savings in the bank and the work in this respect would be lost. All the other bank managers were opposed to the closing of their respective banks. Roxas and Miguel Unson took the same stand as I did. However, it is not important one way or another.
4. On page 51 it is not a fact that the indeterminate-sentence and adult probation laws have been repealed after Murphy left. They were only amended, as experience proved that they should be amended.
5. On pages 53 and 54 what you say about Murphy's "riskless resignation" and Americans and Filipinos alike having lambasted him after he left is not true as far as the Filipinos were concerned; nor that the Filipino politicians who had been closest to him expressed fear that he might return to Manila. I don't know how many Filipinos have expressed those opinions to you, but I am sure that that was not the feeling on the part of the Filipinos as a whole or of the members of my party in the legislature. As a matter of fact, we were sorry that Governor Murphy presented his candidacy, but we were glad that in so doing he did not resign, for had he been defeated, he could have been sent back to the Philippines which was what we wanted, you will understand that during that period of organization of the Commonwealth, we preferred a man whom we knew, with whom we had gotten along well, and who was very friendly to the Filipino people in every respect. For this reason, we felt that he would have been of inestimable value to us, at least during the first years of the Commonwealth. Even when Sayre was already in Manila we still wanted Murphy back.

I would not undertake to call your attention to this fact and request you, as I hereby do, to change that part of your book if I did not see that you, rightly, think well of Murphy. I am sure it would make him very unhappy if he

thought that the Filipinos felt as you say they did after he had left. It is not quite fair either to him or to the Filipinos the statement that you make.

7. On pages 55 and 56 I just want to call your attention to the fact that when President Roosevelt recommended the amendment of the Independence Act, he not only recommended the elimination of the military provisions of the law to which I have specifically and strenuously objected, but he also stated in his message to Congress that such injustices and Inequalities as may later be found in the law could be remedied.
8. On page 61 you speak of McNutt's use of the oil excise tax fund as a means of persuading me to call on him first. I have never questioned the fact that the High Commissioner, although having the same rank as the President of the Philippines, was nevertheless the Senior because he was the representative of the President. The question of possible misunderstanding between High Commissioner McNutt and me was raised by the newspapers when McNutt, while I was absent from the Philippines, ordered that the High Commissioner should be toasted before the President of the Philippines. I was then in New York and upon being approached by newspaper reporters, I dismissed the "whole business by merely saying that I never refuse to take a drink whenever I had a chance, regardless of the order of the toast; which answer, I was happy to see, had the desired effect. When I arrived in Manila I simply called on McNutt without further ado.
9. On page 62 you refer to Sayre's trip to Corregidor after I "had moved an skeleton Commonwealth Government;" which seems to suggest that I moved, to Corregidor ahead of Sayre. Such was not the case, for we went aboard the same boat — "The Mayon" — and it may be of interest to you to know that while Sayre was glad to go to Corregidor, my preference was to remain with my people. McArthur had to do a lot of arguing with me before I yielded to his wishes.
10. On page 66 you seem to have the idea that I was unwilling to organize the civilian defense upon the theory that that was the responsibility of the Government of the United States, and, impliedly, of Commissioner Sayre. This is one of those stories that were printed in this country without the slightest foundation in fact. I did have a very serious friction with Sayre, but for the opposite reason. Soon after the enactment of the Emergency Powers Act early in the summer of 1940, I got ready to make use of those powers and organize the civilian defense; but Sayre, echoing the protest of the Civil Liberties Union in the Philippines and its counterpart in the United States, telegraphed President Roosevelt recommending that I be restrained by the President from making use of those powers upon the theory that the Act made me in fact Dictator of the Philippines. Before I could start, doing anything, Sayre told me that there was a confidential radiogram from the President received by him cautioning me against the use of these powers. I never saw the radiogram except what Sayre claimed to be its purport. I was indignant and told Sayre that we were taking very serious risks in not getting ready, but since the President had the final say on the matter there was nothing I could do but abide by his decision. "You may assure the President" I said to Sayre, "that I shall not make use of these powers until you, in your capacity as High Commissioner, request me to do it." Of course I could not state publicly what had happened, and that is why when at the press conference to which you refer on page 66, I was asked what preparations were being made against the possibility of an air attack, I gave that silly answer. But the truth of the matter is that I had been very seriously concerned about the possibility of an armed conflict between the United States and Japan early in 1940, and for this reason I recommended to the National Assembly the enactment of the Emergency Powers Act. Let me add that it was not in a moment of "hysteria" that I made that public statement in the University Campus that bombs might be dropped. I was then certain that the war between the United States and Japan was inevitable and that the Philippines would be the first victim. So regardless of how the President of the United States and Mr. Sayre might feel, I deemed it my unavoidable duty to explain then why I did not make use of the Emergency Powers Act in due time. I use the words "in due time" advisedly because I did make use of the Emergency Powers Act when, at last, Sayre himself, at the instance of General Grunert, requested me to organize the civilian defense. But it was too late for this happened only seven months before Japan struck.

I did contend that the military defense of the Philippines was the primary responsibility of the United States, and for this reason, at the time that I was recommending to the National Assembly the enactment of the Emergency Powers Act, I was requesting Sayre to join me in urging President Roosevelt to provide the Philippines with the necessary means for its military defense. All to no avail. However, even in the case of the military defense, I informed the President of the United States that he could count upon all the resources of the country in man and material.

In just to myself, I hope you may see your way clear to correct the misstatement that you make about my attitude about the civilian defense of the Philippines.

The story about the “exposition” on page 68 reads well and you may let it stand, but for your information I want to tell you that I did not agree with the report, much less did I say that the arguments were unanswerable. In fact I did answer them in my conference with the members of the committee. But this is neither here nor there.

Before closing, I want to compliment you on the book. I think it is a find presentation of the work done by the United States in the Philippines and it explains Bataan better than anything so far published has done it.

Very sincerely yours,

MANUEL L. QUEZON

P.S.

I forgot to call your attention to your statement that I surrendered to Squire. This is not true. I surrendered to Lieut. Miller, the commander of the garrison in Mariveles. Squire happened to be outside of the town of Mariveles taking pictures at the foot of the mountain when I came out from the “bosque” on my way to the town of Mariveles, and indeed he was little scarred because I had some soldiers with me; but he soon found that I was going to place myself in the hands of the commander of the American garrison. I allowed that fable of Squire to go on, but your book is history.

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Letter of President Quezon to Frederick Marquardt]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University.

Letter of President Quezon to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes on his health condition and instructions, June 8, 1943

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes on his health condition and instructions**

[Sent to Washington, D. C., June 8, 1943]

The Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C.
June 8, 1943

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have again broken down. My doctor tells me that I will need several months of complete rest.

The Vice President is also ill in the Doctor's Hospital. As soon as his health is restored, he will act for me with full powers. Meantime, please communicate with Commissioner Elizalde on such matters as may require immediate attention.

In order not to delay the work on Philippine Rehabilitation, I have instructed Commissioner Elizalde to proceed with the discussions with Under Secretary Fortas and try to get an agreement with him.

Faithfully yours,

(SGD) MANUEL L. QUEZON

The
Harold
Secretary
Washington, D. C.

of L. the

Honorable
Ickes
Interior

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Letter of President Quezon to General MacArthur on His Instructions, October 10, 1943

TO: GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

8998 TENTH OCT 43

Even though since May I have been and still am in my sick bed I am personally attending to all important matters affecting the Philippines and in particular the details of the Bill. (Eyes only Quezon to MacArthur WDGBI Strong) I took active personal part in discussion of President's message at a meeting held in my apartment at the Shoreham. You may rest assured that legislation covering economic rehabilitation will appropriate definite amounts of money since study of this matter was made months ago by committee appointed by me composed of competent persons, including A. D. Williams the Auditor General and others in consultation with U.S. officials. The matter of post-war economy will be practically trade relations as before the war to last indefinitely as may be necessary to insure Philippine economic stability. National security will include U.S. Naval and air bases as I will propose. This is left to negotiations between myself and the President of U.S. and at proper time I shall need your advice.

Don't send Villamor back if he is needed in Philippines. Yesterday Parsons' report arrived which gives sufficient information. If Cruz in free area stop him for same reason and use or return to me as you think best. His loss could be terrible blow.

I wish to confer on guerilla leaders and their men decorations according Parsons' recommendations also I wish to decorate Parsons but before acting I request your views.

If you approve please send all Currency Committees, Paymasters and Disbursing Officers, Guerrilla Commanders, Provincial Governors and Treasurers following: "I authorize payment of sum equaling two months pay to all fighting forces Filipinos, Americans or others from highest ranking officers to lowest private in addition to pay for month of December. This additional amount to be disbursed and paid before Christmas. I authorize same for all civilian employees in sum equivalent salary to one months salary. Families in real distress living in free areas will be given five pesos for husband and wife and one peso for each minor child. To determine who entitled to this relief I appoint committees composed of Guerrilla Commander, Governor and Provincial Treasurer. Signed Manuel L. Quezon" If you do not concur or have suggestions before transmitting foregoing send me your views.

Source: Quezon Family Collections

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Letter of President Manuel L. Quezon to General Douglas MacArthur on his Instructions]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Letter of President Quezon to Field Marshal MacArthur, January 28, 1944

**Letter
of
Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
to
Field Marshal MacArthur**

[January 28, 1944]

SECRET

Miami Beach, Fla.

January 28, 1944

For the eyes of General MacArthur only

I see in the Summary of Economic and Political Information covering the period from September 13 to December 31, the following:

“In late September, Bohol requested that the 1,000,000 pesos authorized by President Quezon be doubled. Leyte also requested additional funds. Early in December, the Commander, 10th Military District suggested that he be authorized to supply Leyte and Bohol with emergency currency at their request, thus eliminating two issues of emergency notes. Such supply was authorized by this Headquarters provided delivery be made to the Emergency Control Committee of each province and that the amount does not exceed that specifically authorized by the Commonwealth Government to be printed by such committees.”

Since I authorized the Emergency Currency Board of Leyte and Bohol to issue emergency currency funds for the need of the Army and civil government in those provinces, and I have not authorized the Emergency Committee of Mindanao to supply funds to Leyte and Bohol, am I to understand that your headquarters has assumed the power to give the authority to military district commanders to get funds from the currency boards in their districts not only for their own military command but also for the needs of guerrillas and civil governments in other provinces? If so this would also imply that your headquarters has assumed the power to authorize currency boards created by me for specified areas to issue emergency notes for other areas.

What is the meaning of the words “the currency situation in Samar was ‘out of control’?”.

Q U E Z O N

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

(sgd.) SERAPIO D. CANCERAN

Private Secretary to the President

Copied: 12/4/44 rew

SECRET

Letter of President Quezon to General MacArthur appealing for assistance from Governor Confesor, March 11, 1944

TO: GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

5144 11TH MARCH 1944

PASS TO CONFESOR.

Letter which follows is from President Roosevelt.

My Dear Mister President:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 23rd, 1944, relative to the appeal for assistance you received from the Governor of Panay, Tomas Confesor. Governor Confesor's refusal to surrender to the Japanese has gained for him the admiration and respect of all who are aware of the distressing situation in which he has been placed. I agree with you that his letter to Mister Caram holding that adherence to the high principles involved is dearer than life itself is a remarkable document and I am sure that it reflects the views of the Filipino people. I shall be grateful to you if you will transmit to Governor Confesor our appreciation of his loyalty and of his devotion to the cause for which we are fighting. You may say to him also that we are confident that he will be able to continue his successful resistance until the military situation is sufficiently advanced to permit not only his rescue but the liberation of the Filipino people. Both you and he may rest assured that although it is not possible to predict the exact date the destruction of the Japanese empire is certain.

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Roosevelt, F. D. (1944). Letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

**Letter of President Quezon to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946
even if Japanese are still in Occupation, June 29, 1944**

**Letter
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946 even if Japanese are still in
Occupation**

[Released on June 29, 1944]

Camp McMartin
Saranac Lake, N.Y.
June 29, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

May I be allowed to make of record certain facts pertinent to the passage by the Congress of the United States of S.J. Resolution 93 which I believe vital to the mutual interests of our two peoples.

When the American people, through its leaders, recognized Philippine loyalty to the United States in the present war against Japan, and you and the members of your government honored me with the reception at Union Station when I first arrived in Washington from Corregidor, a recognition that was subsequently by other official acts such as the admission of the Philippines as a member of the United Nations and my having been accorded a seat in the Pacific War Council, I thought of asking you and the Congress that the immediate independence of the Philippines be granted. In this connection, in June last year, I asked my good friend, Secretary Stimson, to convey to you my wishes on the matter and. requested Senator Tydings to draft a bill along these lines.

For reasons that I need not dwell upon at this time, immediate independence of the Philippines as I advocated could not be granted. On the other hand, S.J. Resolution 93 embodies the spirit of your administration of advancing the date of Philippine independence prior to July 4, 1946 as stated in Section 3 thereof. The military successes of American forces of recent days point to the possibility that the Japanese may be driven out of the Philippines before July 4, 1946 and, therefore, independence will be a fact for my people as contemplated in S.J. Resolution 93. However, may I request that upon attaching your signature to this resolution, it be made clear and definite by you that if for any unforeseen reason the Japanese are still in the Philippines on July 4, 1946, independence will be made effective on that date as provided for in the Tydings-McDuffie Act.

With expressions of gratitude of the Filipino people and my own for your continued interest in their welfare, I beg to remain.

Very faithfully yours,

MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Telegram from President Quezon to the Philippine Cabinet, May 19, 1944

TELEGRAM RECEIVED VIA WESTERN UNION

FROM ASHEVILLE, N. CAROLINA

MAY 19, 1944

THE PHILIPPINE CABINET

THROUGH THE HONORABLE SERGIO OSMENA

VICE PRES OF THE PHILIPPINES

EFFECTIVE TOAY I HEREBY APPOINT COLONEL MANUEL NIETO AS SECRETARY TO THE CABINET
WITH RIGHT TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON MATTERS TAKEN UP AND DECIDED BY THE CABINET

QUEZON.

142PM.

Telegram from President Quezon to the Philippine Cabinet, May 20, 1944

TELEGRAM RECEIVED VIA WESTERN UNION

FROM ASHEVILLE, N. CAROLINA

MAY 20, 1944

PHILIPPINE CABINET

HON SERGIO OSMENA

VICE PRES OF THE PHILIPPINES

SUPPLEMENTING MY TELEGRAM DATED MAY 19TH I HAVE ALSO GRANTED AUTHORITY TO COL NIETO TO SIGN OFFICIAL PAPERS ON MY BEHALF WITH A NOTATION QUOTE BY AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT UNQUOTE

QUEZON.

1214PM

PRESS STATEMENTS

Statement: President Quezon on administration of Philippine Army Officer Corps, January 11, 1936

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

**HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

ON

ADMINISTRATION OF PHILIPPINE ARMY CORPS

[Released to the Press, January 11, 1936]

Competent officers in adequate number, wholly devoted to the service of their country, constitute the most vitally essential element in modern warfare, and the only one that under no circumstances can be improvised.

An army can live on short rations, it can be insufficiently clothed and housed, it can even fight and frequently win when poorly armed and equipped, but in action it is doomed to destruction without the trained leadership of its officers. An efficient and sufficient corps of officers means the difference between victory and defeat. The production and maintenance of an officer corps of the highest efficiency and morale is a problem upon the satisfactory solution of which depends the success of our whole effort toward providing for the common security.

To develop an officer corps of this kind, it is necessary to induct annually into the military service young men of outstanding ability and character; to train them thoroughly and progressively; and, finally, to devise a system of promotion and of elimination that, while discovering and making the best possible use of patriotic talent, will also purge the army of ineptitude and inefficiency. This last measure, that is, the establishment of a sound promotion system, is the basic purpose of regulations to which I have just given my approval and are now being published to the service.

The true objective of a proper promotion system is not merely the aggrandizement of a few gifted individuals; it is the raising to a high level of the average efficiency of a whole corps. The problem is essentially collective and administrative rather than individualistic and personal.

Theoretically all promotion should be accomplished by selective process—that is, each and every vacancy in every grade should be filled by advancing the particular subordinate who has demonstrated his superiority in qualifications. But important difficulties arise when attempting to apply this theory practically. No Commander-in-Chief can be intimately acquainted with all the officers of an army that will be distributed from Northern Luzon to Southern Mindanao, and will be engaged in a multitude of diversified activities, ranging from the purchase and storage of food supplies to the study of highly specialized branches of food chemistry. Moreover, it is wholly impossible to devise any infallible system of evaluating ability that will permit higher authority to make distinctions on any such particularized basis. But the most serious objection to the selective method of promotion is that it frequently permits political or other extraneous influence to affect an officer's advancement. This is fatal to efficiency. Whenever an army becomes convinced that the promotion of an officer is done to the morale of the whole corps, and the military service is certain to be neglected in favor of political maneuvering. I am determined that nothing of this kind shall characterize the officer corps of the Philippine Army. The plan I have approved seeks only the good of the service, the development of the Army's efficiency, and fairness and justice to the individual.

The system is based upon a few simple principles. The first of these is that, other thing being equal, the officer of the longest service in each grade—that is, one with the greatest amount of experience—should logically be promoted whenever a vacancy occurs. The second principle is that each officer's qualifications for promotion, as depicted in his complete official record, should be passed upon by a board of disinterested and experienced soldiers who have

nothing but the welfare of the country at heart. In providing for such judicial determination of qualifications, the Plan compels a continuous rotation of the board's membership so that personal prejudice may not adversely affect the fortunes of any officer in the service. The third principle is that whenever an officer becomes due for promotion and is found unqualified therefor, he should be immediately separated from the active list. Disgruntled and ineffective officers have no place in a virile and efficient army. Lastly, the plan recognizes the obligation of the Government to any individual who has served his country long and faithfully but whose efficiency has finally deteriorated, through no fault of his own, to the point where his separation from the service becomes desirable. In justice to him, the plan provides a small bonus or annuity that will help tide him over the adjustment period as he undertakes to find employment in other walks of life.

I am convinced that this plan will produce effective results. Its operation will have my personal and earnest supervision. Should it come to my attention that any officer is attempting to use political or any other type of non-military influence to secure his own advancement, I will spare no effort to effect his immediate separation from the service. On the other hand, I intend to use the full length of my office to protect, support and encourage every officer of merit who devotes his, full attention to his assigned duties. I will interest myself in his material welfare to the fullest extent compatible with fairness and justice to all other loyal and efficient officers.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on designation of Colonel Jose de los Reyes as Acting Chief of Staff; General Basilio Valdes as Assistant Chief of Staff; and Colonel Paulino Santos to render services in the headquarters of the General Staff of the Philippine Army, January 11, 1936

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**DESIGNATION OF COLONEL JOSE DE LOS REYES AS ACTING
CHIEF OF STAFF; GENERAL BASILIO VALDES AS ASSIST-
ANT CHIEF OF STAFF; AND COLONEL PAULINO
SANTOS TO RENDER SERVICES IN THE HEAD-
QUARTERS OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF
THE PHILIPPINE ARMY**

[Released to the Press, January 11, 1936]

I have today designated Colonel Jose de los Reyes as Acting Chief of Staff with the rank of Brigadier-General for the Philippine Army. Colonel Reyes has retired from the Constabulary since the year 1930, and is now Chief of the Secret Service Division of the Bureau of Customs. He is the senior officer among all the living Constabulary native officers, and his record during all the years that he served in the Constabulary has been outstanding. His integrity and high character, his ability and devotion to duty is being recognized not only throughout the organization which he so faithfully and brilliantly served, but throughout the country as well. After hearing the opinion of General MacArthur, the military adviser of this Government, I have come to the conclusion that for the present this is the best appointment that can be made.

General Valdes is designated Assistant Chief of Staff with the rank of Brigadier-General of the line, and Colonel Francisco also Assistant Chief of Staff with the rank of Colonel. I have also considered appointing Colonel Santos as Assistant Chief of Staff, but due to the immediate necessity of transferring Bilibid Prison, I am for the time being retaining him as Director of the Bureau of Prisons, so that he may carry out this very important work for which he is especially fitted, although at the same time I am designating him to render services in the Headquarters of the General Staff under his present commission whenever his services may be required.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on appointing Secretary Teofilo Sison as member of the Court of Appeals,
February 5, 1936**

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**APPOINTING SECRETARY TEOFILO SISON AS MEMBER OF
THE COURT OF APPEALS**

[Released to the Press, February 5, 1936]

I am appointing Secretary Sison as one of the members of the Court of Appeals. This I am doing with deep regret. Secretary Sison has been one of the strongest members of my Cabinet and one of the best Secretaries of the Interior that the Philippine Government has ever had. Under him, the Department, despite the nature of its functions, has been free from evil political influences during his administration. However, after conferences with the Secretary of Justice and the Chief Justice and other members of the Supreme Court, I have come to the conclusion that is necessary to have in the Court of Appeals a man who, besides being a good lawyer and of unimpeachable integrity, is closely familiar with the Administrative Code and all the machinery of the Government, for there will be cases presented to the Court of Appeals which will require a thorough and expert knowledge of governmental affairs. Secretary Sison fully measures up to these requirements and I, therefore, felt that we have to dispense with the services of Secretary Sison in the Department of the Interior in the interest of the administration of Justice.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Appointment of Members of the National Economic Council, February 14, 1936

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL
ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

[Released to the Press, February 14, 1936]

By Executive Order, I have today appointed members of the National Economic Council the following:

The	Honorable,	the	Secretary	of	Finance,	who	has	been	designated	as	Chairman	of	the	Council.
The	Honorable,	the	Secretary	of	Agriculture	and	Commerce.							
The	Chairman,	Board	of	Directors,	Philippine	National	Bank.							
The	President,		National	Development	Company.									
The	President,		Manila	Railroad	Company.									
Mr.		Joaquin		M.	Elizalde.									
Hon.		Ramon		J.	Fernandez.									
Mr.			Wenceslao		Trinidad.									
Mr.			Vicente		Madrigal.									
Hon.			Francisco		Varona.									
Mr.	Ramon	Soriano.												

Although the law authorizes the appointment of not more than fifteen members, for the present the eleven members above listed, representing the active elements in the Government service dealing with financial and economic problems as well as in private enterprises likewise dedicated, will be sufficient in order to commence and give impulse to the activities required of the Council. The Honorable Francisco Varona has been appointed to the Council in order that he may give expression to the points of view of our laboring class on all questions that may affect their interest and well-being.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon upon denying report in the Bulletin that the American High Commissioner has turned thumbs down on proposal to float bonds in the Philippines for insular public works projects, August 3, 1936

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**DENYING REPORT IN THE BULLETIN THAT THE AMERICAN
HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS TURNED THUMBS DOWN ON
PROPOSAL TO FLOAT BONDS IN THE PHILIPPINES
FOR INSULAR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**

[Released to the Press, August 3, 1936]

The news appearing in this morning's *Bulletin* to the effect that "the Office of the American High Commissioner has turned thumbs down on the proposal to float bonds in the Philippines for insular public works projects" is as false as it is mischievous.

Let it be clearly understood that no American official from the President of the United States down to the High Commissioner has any authority, powers, prerogatives or those granted in the Independence Law, commonly known as the Tydings-McDuffie Act. The President has no power under the said Independence Act, and much less the High Commissioner, to veto any law passed by the Philippine National Assembly. The President has the authority to suspend the taking effect of or the operation of any law, contracts, or to meet its bonded indebtedness and interest thereon or to provide for its sinking funds, "or which seems likely to impair the reserves for the protection of the currency of the Philippines, or which in his judgment will violate international obligations of the United States." In the case of bond issues, the Independence Act provides that "the public debt of the Philippines and its subordinate branches shall not exceed limits now or hereafter fixed by the Congress of the United States, and no loans shall be contracted in foreign countries without the approval of the President of the United States."

From the provisions of the Independence Act quoted above it will be seen: (a) that there is nothing in the law which requires the previous approval of the High Commissioner to any Act that the National Assembly may care to approve; (b) that the National Assembly is absolutely at liberty to issue bonds and sell them either in the Philippines or in the United States without any interference from the Government of the United States as long as it is within the limits imposed by the Congress to the total indebtedness of the Government of the Commonwealth, which is 10 per centum of the aggregate tax valuation of its property, and it provides for the appropriate sinking funds.

The total indebtedness of the Government of the Commonwealth is P131,450,000, against which there already exists in the National Treasury a sinking fund amounting to P49,474,000 and the maximum indebtedness allowed by the Congress is P185,197,000. The proposed bond issue is only P7,000,000 and in the bill authorizing it ample sinking fund is provided. There can, therefore, be no possible objection that may likely be presented by the American government to the issuance of that bond, and the question of policy, that is to say, whether there should be issued any bonds at all during the life of the Government of the Commonwealth is purely a matter of policy which under the dependence Act is entirely within the province of the Government of the Commonwealth.

I have gone into detail in correcting the misinformation published by the *Bulletin*, in the interest of good government and to protect the rights of the Government of the Commonwealth. Also—and this important—due regard for the good name and faith of the United States makes it imperative that there should be left no doubt in the mind of

anybody regarding the powers and responsibilities with which the Government of the Commonwealth has been invested by the voluntary and noble renunciation of some governmental powers heretofore exercised by the Government of the United States or its representatives in the Philippines through the Act of the Congress.

There are certain elements in the community who have always been not only against Philippine independence, but also against the grant of autonomous authority to the people of these Islands. These elements, I regret to say, seem to refuse to abide by the sovereign will of the American people as expressed by Congress, and they resist to admit in their mind that a change in government, not only in form, but also in substance, has taken place in the Philippines. These elements, despite clear provisions of the Independence Act to the contrary, still insist that the High Commissioner is in fact the Government of the Philippines was the High Commissioner, as obtains in other colonies elsewhere, America could not claim any credit for what she has done in the Philippines. On the contrary, her whole policy in the Islands would be on of hypocrisy and sham.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on signing Bill No. 214, Remitting delinquent cedula taxes, October 29, 1936

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Upon signing Bill No. 214, Remitting Delinquent Cedula Taxes**

[Released to the Press on October 29, 1936]

I have today signed with reluctance and against the advice of some of my associates in the Government, Bill No. 214, which remits the delinquent cedula taxes in the case the taxpayers concerns pay their 1937 cedulas before May 1st of that year.

I have signed the bill in the hope that hereafter the people of the Philippines will pay their cedula taxes regularly. I wish to state, however, that if the 1937 cedula taxes are subsequent similar taxes are not paid in time in accordance with the provisions of this law, I will set the machinery of the government in motion so that all cedula taxes accruing to the Government are promptly collected. Not only will the penalties provided by law in such case be applied rigorously against those who have not paid their cedula taxes, but also the Government will even go to the extent of distraining personal property in order to secure the payment of cedula taxes.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon upon signing Bill No. 212, depriving S. P. C. A. agents of the power to make arrests for violation of Laws on cruelty to animals, November 8, 1936

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**SIGNING BILL NO. 212, DEPRIVING S. P. C. A. AGENTS OF
THE POWER TO MAKE ARRESTS FOR VIOLATION OF
LAWS ON CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

[Released to the Press, November 8, 1936]

I have signed Bill No. 212, which amends Act No. 1285 in such a way as to deprive agents of the S. P. C. A. of the power which they heretofore had to make arrest, for violation of laws regarding cruelty to animals. I approved the bill in spite of the protests of the representative of the S. P. C. A. because in my opinion it is fundamentally wrong and contrary to every principle of good government to give any private individual or association police powers or to delegate to private institutions the performance of strictly governmental functions. The bill corrects this very serious defect in one of the laws existing in our statute books.

The cruel treatment of animals is an offense against the State penalized under our statutes. There is no difference whatever between a violation of this law and the violation of any other law. Therefore, it is the Government, through its properly constituted agencies, that should arrest violators of said law. Had the bill under consideration attempted to repeal the Acts which penalize the cruel treatment of animals, I would have vetoed it. But unfortunately the National Assembly did not do this. Cruelty to animals is still a criminal offense and no change has been introduced as to its penalty.

In order that the law may be properly executed, I am issuing an executive order directing every mayor of a chartered city, every municipal president, the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Provost Marshal General as head of the Constabulary Division of the Philippine Army to detail special members of the police force, local, national and the Constabulary, to watch, capture and prosecute offenders against the law prohibiting cruelty to animals. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to call the attention of the people of the Philippines to the fact that all civilized nations treat their animals with the same care and consideration as they treat human beings. It speaks ill of a people to permit maltreatment of their animals, and I hope that the public in general will coöperate with the Government in stopping this shocking evil.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on allowing Bill No. 2251, authorizing the holding of lotteries for charitable purposes and creating a public corporation to carry out the purposes of the bill, to become a law without the President's signature, November 29, 1936

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On allowing Bill No. 2251, authorizing the holding of lotteries for charitable purposes and creating a public corporation to carry out the purposes of the bill, to become a law without the President's signature

[Released on November 29, 1936]

I have allowed Bill No. 2251 authorizing the holding of lotteries for charitable purposes and creating a public corporation to carry out the purposes of the bill to become a law without my signature under the provisions of paragraph (2), section 11, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines.

In principle, I am opposed to the holding of sweepstakes or lotteries and, as a matter of fact, I sent a message to the National Assembly on July 29, 1936, recommending the discontinuance of the holding of sweepstakes in the Philippines and the adoption of some other system with less objectionable features. As a result, the National Assembly approved at its regular session Bill 2251 allowing the holding of lotteries for charitable purposes. This bill was repassed during the last special session of the National Assembly in order to eliminate certain objectionable features of the same. While the bill, as finally passed, may not meet fully with the suggestion contained in my letter of July 29, 1936, yet, inasmuch as the bill under consideration is an expression of the collective will of the members of the National Assembly and as it has certain good points, the same may be allowed to remain in our statute book.

The primary purpose of the bill is to raise funds for charitable purposes. At present, we do not have sufficient charitable institutions to take care of the unfortunates who must have to depend on charity, and the Government finances at present are not sufficient to supply the different needs of the Government and much less the need for charitable works. Furthermore, the suspension of the last sweepstakes has encouraged and increased the entry into the Philippines of lottery and sweepstakes tickets.

It will be noted that the bill does not repeal the law authorizing the holding of sweepstakes in the Philippines. As soon, however, as the necessary instrumentality for undertaking the work provided in the bill has been set up, I shall order the cessation of the activities of the present organization in charge of the holding of sweepstakes. In no case shall I allow that the sweepstakes be permitted to continue at the same time with the holding of lotteries.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Statement: President Quezon upon allowing Bill No. 568, remitting the bond of P4,867.99 furnished by the Luzon Surety Co., Inc., in behalf of Eugenio Uy Tuising, in the cases of people versus Eugenio Uy Tuising, to become law without the President's signature, November 30, 1936

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

Upon allowing Bill No. 568, remitting the bond of P4,867.99 furnished by the Luzon Surety Co., Inc., in behalf of Eugenio Uy Tuising, in the cases of people versus Eugenio Uy Tuising, to become law without the President's signature

[Released to the Press, November 30, 1936]

I have allowed Bill No. 568, entitled "An Act remitting the bond of four thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven pesos and ninety-nine centavos furnished by the Luzon Surety Company, Incorporated, in behalf of Eugenio Uy Tuising in the cases of People *versus* Eugenio Uy Tuising," to become a law without my signature, under the provisions of Paragraph (2), section 11, Article VI, of the Constitution of the Philippines.

Bill No. 568 seeks to remit the bond of P4,867.99 furnished by the Luzon Surety Co., Inc., in favor of defendant Eugenio Uy Tuising in criminal cases Nos. 13209, 13259, and 14107, all entitled "Peoplevs. Eugenio Uy Tuisng," which bond had been declared confiscated by the Court of First Instance of Cebu by reason of the defendant's failure to appear in court at the time of the reading of the sentence against him.

It appears that the bond in question was ordered to be confiscated in view of the inability of the Luzon Surety Company, Inc., to produce the defendant, Eugenio Uy Tuising, at the time of one reading of the sentence against him. Upon inquiry, however, it was found that the defendant died on January 27, 1932, one month before the date set for his appearance in court, and the fact of his death became known to the company only after the Court of First Instance of Cebu had issued its order of confiscation.

It will be seen, therefore, that under the facts stated above, there may be justification for the remission of the confiscated bond. I believe, however, that as a matter of sound public policy, the Government should not encourage the refund of bonds confiscated for failure of the accused to appear in court. Presuming that the National Assembly must have been appraised of the full facts of this case before acting on the same, and considering that the said Body has expressed its stand by the enactment of the bill in question, I do not feel it wise to nullify the will of the Assembly by vetoing the said bill. However, it is hoped that no measures of a similar nature will be enacted in the future.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: President Quezon on explaining why there can be no Acting President in the absence of the President of the Philippines from the National Territory

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On explaining why there can be no Acting President in the absence of the President of the Philippines from the National Territory

[Released on December 7, 1936]

Under the Constitution, in the absence of the President of the Philippines from the national territory, there can be no Acting President. Wherever he goes, the President carries with him the authority and powers of his Office and he can exercise them as fully and as if he were in his Office at the capital of the nation. There will, therefore, be no Acting President during my absence from the Philippines and the Government will continue to be run and its official affairs transacted in the same manner as they are when I am in the Philippines.

Each Secretary of Department will attend and decide matters pertaining to his department which under the law he has authority to decide. To those that require my approval, if necessitating urgent action, my consent can be had by cable. Of other departmental business, which although within the province of a Secretary of Department are of such importance or affect the general policies of the Government in such a way that the Department head thinks he should consult me, the Secretary may also communicate with me by cable.

In my absence, the cabinet may hold its weekly meetings to consider routine matters under the presidency of the Vice-President. Such official business as is ordinarily carried on in my Office under the signature of the Secretary to the President shall continue to be transacted as heretofore.

Should a case arise in which the personal signature of the president is required and the matter has been consulted and decided by me, the Vice-President, after writing my name above his signature, may authenticate the document with his own signature, for and in behalf of the president.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Statement: President Quezon on purpose of the President's trip to the United States, January 7, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**PURPOSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO THE
UNITED STATES**

[Released to the Press, January 7, 1937]

In reference to the trip of President Quezon to the United States, the President desires it to be clearly understood that his trip to the United States is being made for the purpose of having preliminary conversations with the President of the United States and with the State and War Department officials. The formal calling of the Trade Conference between representatives of the Government of the United States and representatives of the Government of the Philippines is left under the law to the President of the United States, and therefore President Quezon will not appoint the representatives of the Philippine Government to this conference unless and until the President of the United States has decided when the Trade Conference shall take place.

President Quezon is going to America with his official staff but is taking with him no delegate to the Trade Conference, nor are there any delegates expected to follow him because he has appointed none.

The announcement made by the President that the Vice-President would head the Philippine delegation to the Trade Conference was made only for the purpose of vesting the Vice-President with authority to gather data that may be necessary if and when the President of the United States should call the Trade Conference.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on purpose of Creation of National Language Board

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the purpose of creation of National Language Board

[Released on January 13, 1937]

The purpose of the Act creating the National Language Board is very clear. It is to find means whereby there may be created a native national language for the Filipino people out of the different main native languages spoken in the Philippines.

Such a native national language, if and when it is formed, will not replace the teaching of English in the public schools. The Constitution provides that primary instruction in the public schools will be chiefly conducted in English. Nor will such a native national language do away with the use of Spanish in the Philippines. English and Spanish will be increasingly known and employed in business and social intercourse in this country as past experience has demonstrated. But the Filipinos' possession of their own native language will doubtless serve to foster national consciousness and solidarity—a most important possession for any people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Visible Head of the Government during President's absence and selection of cabinet members, January 21, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**VISIBLE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING PRESIDENT'S
ABSENCE AND SELECTION OF CABINET MEMBERS**

[Released to the Press, January 21, 1937]

The news item appearing yesterday in an afternoon paper to the effect that at a conference held with members of the Cabinet and of the Assembly it was agreed that Vice-President Osmeña will be "the visible head" of the Government in the absence of the President, and that a supposed realignment of the Cabinet virtually was sanctioned, is misleading.

The President did not consult the members of his Cabinet nor of the Assembly as to who will be the "visible head" of the Government during his absence from the Islands, nor did he seek their approval as to any supposed realignment of the Cabinet.

The selection of the members of his Cabinet is the President's constitutional prerogative and he need not have the approval of any one to constitute a Cabinet that in his opinion will best serve the public interest. Nor did the President consult the opinion of any one as to who will be the "visible head" of the Government and represent him at official ceremonies. What the President did in his speech yesterday, at the luncheon which he gave to the Cabinet, Members of the Assembly, and Provincial Governors and Treasurers, was merely to state that, although the Vice-President, under the Constitution, cannot be acting President since the President will continue to exercise the powers and prerogatives of his office while abroad, he being, however, the ranking official in the Government, will in the absence of the President, represent the President.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Woman Suffrage, January 21, 1937

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Woman Suffrage**

[Released on January 21, 1937]

To the Filipino People:

On the eve of my departure abroad on a mission of far-reaching consequence to the nation, I desire to make an earnest appeal in favor of woman suffrage, which will be decided by the qualified women of the country in a plebiscite to be held on April 30, 1937.

Almost every democratic country in the world today has woman suffrage; the Philippines cannot afford to be an exception.

The common people, the farm laborers, the factory workers, and the small employees will be the first ones to be benefited by the extension of the vote to women, because the majority of these new electors, as is the case with the majority of male electors, belong to the class above mentioned, and, therefore, their influence in the Government will be greater and doubtless will be exerted in favor of measures and legislation that will promote their well-being. The women in the factories, in the barrios, and in the far-flung communities, who are qualified to vote, should all come out and vote for woman suffrage on the appointed day.

Our cause in America will receive an added impetus when the American people learn that we have granted the right of suffrage to our women.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Discontent and Social Justice, January 22, 1937

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Discontent and Social Justice**

[Released on January 22, 1937]

I do not want to have to use my modest army of ten thousand men to shoot down Filipinos who go out to the fields because they are convinced that they are not getting justice either from the Government or from their fellow-citizens. I never want to do that. I do not want to use the army of the Philippines to kill a man who is out in defense of his human rights. God save me from having to do that! And because I do not want ever to be placed in a position wherein I have to do it—my paramount duty being to maintain peace and order regardless of the causes that bring about the disturbances—I am asking everybody now to get together and try to improve the conditions in the Philippines so that such feelings of discontent as now exist may be replaced by a feeling of contentment and happiness, of satisfaction with the Government and with their fellowmen. And I think that we are improving, we are getting better, we are going as fast as we can without upsetting the present industrial and economic organizations overmuch. I have instructed Judge Zulueta and the Secretary of Labor to go to Negros and start investigating the wages that are being paid to laborers, and we are going to go ahead and find out how the laborers on the farms and in the factories are being treated. We are going to use the authority vested in this Government to secure justice for these fellows if and when it is necessary.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the Inauguration of the City of Cebu, February 24, 1937

**Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Inauguration of the City of Cebu**

[Released to the Press, February 24, 1937]

Message of His Excellency, the President, on the occasion of the inauguration of the new city of Cebu, as telephoned from New York to Secretary Vargas by the President on February 22nd:

“I congratulate the people of Cebu on this auspicious event which I would have liked to witness. I hope that with your whole-hearted cooperation this new government will enhance the steady progress of your city economically and politically compatible with your own hopes and ambitions and in keeping with my policy and that of the National Assembly to give every community that form of government that will insure healthy growth and well-being for its constituents. I congratulate Mayor Jacinto and other officials of the new city on their assumption of office and I wish them and the people of Cebu every success under the new government.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Inauguration of the City of Davao, March 1, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON THE

INAUGURATION OF THE CITY OF DAVAO

[Released to the Press, March 1, 1937]

Quoted below is the message of His Excellency, the President, to the people of Davao on the occasion of the inauguration of their city, as telephoned by the President to Secretary Vargas:

“To the people of Davao: The inauguration under its new charter of the city of Davao, important in international trade, brings to realization one of my long cherished plans of affording your city every opportunity to make great strides in its political, social, and economic development. I have selected as your Mayor a man long tried in municipal administration and I am confident that your city officials, with the wholehearted cooperation of all elements of the community, will succeed in making of Davao a progressive and model urban center.

From the United States, I send you my greetings and felicitations.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement on Mr. Jose Hilario's resignation as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue and engagement of government officials in private activities, March 6, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**MR. JOSÉ HILARIO'S RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY COLLECTOR
OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND ENGAGEMENT OF GOV-
ERNMENT OFFICIALS IN PRIVATE ACTIVITIES**

[Released to the Press, March 6, 1937]

Devoid of all camouflage, the only reason why Mr. José Hilario, erstwhile deputy collector of internal revenue, resigned his government post is that he had been offered a position in a private firm that pays twice the salary he was getting. Of course, there is nothing mercenary about this; it is simply an advantageous business proposition for Mr. Hilario.

Mr. Hilario feels that the policy of the Government in restricting its employees from engaging in outside activities cramps the liberty of the individual, especially after office hours. If a person feels that he can make more money outside the Government than in it, there is nothing that prevents him from stepping out. But it is poor taste, to say the least, for a man who has been long in the employ of the Government, who has relied long on his government income for the support of his family, and who, perhaps, owes that high public esteem with which he is regarded to the Government itself, to strike at that Government at the moment of leaving its service. We hate to call it ingratitude, but it smacks of the story of a bird which reared a reptile in its nest.

In regard to the prohibition of government employees from engaging in private activities, the policy was enunciated after many bitter lessons from experience. It has been found that when employees engage in private work, as teaching for instance, it is hard to make them undertake trips to the detriment of the service. The tendency on the part of employees who perform outside work is to avoid assignments in the field. This tendency results disastrously for government offices whose responsible officials are themselves performing other work, because due to that side work many necessary inspection trips which mean so much in maintaining efficiency and discipline have perforce to be abandoned.

A clean conscience dictates that a man, in order to be true to himself and to his trust, must devote all of his time, his efforts, and his thoughts to that activity which he has voluntarily embraced as his life-work. To do less would be unfair to the employer. This is especially true where the employer is the Government.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Philippine Independence and Economic Adjustments, March 18, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS

[Joint Statement with U. S. Assistant Secretary of State Francis
B. Sayre, Released to the Press, March 18, 1937]

It was agreed a joint committee of experts would be expected, in making its recommendations, to consider the bearing in which an advancement in the date of independence would have on facilitating or retarding action on a program of economic adjustment of the Philippines.

It was further agreed preferential trade relations between the United States and the Philippines are to be terminated at the earliest practicable date consistent with affording the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust her national economy.

Thereafter, it is contemplated, trade relations between the two countries will be regulated in accordance with a reciprocal agreement on a non-preferential basis.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs

Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs

[Released to the Press, March 22, 1937]

For Vargas, Manila.

(1) Following for Vice-President Osmeña: (quote)

At a conference held between the Interdepartmental Committee on Philippine Affairs presided over by Doctor Sayre the Committee acting on behalf of President Roosevelt at the preliminary discussion and I with attendance of Speaker Montilla, Secretary Yulo, Commissioner Paredes, Assemblyman Buencamino, Joaquin M. Elizalde of the National Economic Council and Benito Razon technical adviser it was agreed that a joint preparatory committee of American and Filipino experts be appointed immediately to study trade relations between the United States and the Philippines and to make recommendations thereon. (stop) In view of fact that I have recommended that the period for granting complete independence be shortened to 1938 or 1939 it was also agreed that this joint committee of experts will be expected in making their recommendations to consider the bearing which this advancement in the date of independence would have on facilitating or retarding the execution of a program of economic adjustment in the Philippines. (stop) It was further agreed that preferential trade relations between the United States and the Philippines are to be terminated at the earliest practicable date consistent with affording the Philippines a reasonable opportunity to adjust their national economy. Thereafter it is contemplated that trade relations between the two countries will be regulated in accordance with a reciprocal agreement on a nonpreferential basis, (stop) The holding of the conference provided in the McDuffie Tydings Act will be postponed until the joint preparatory committee shall have presented its report. (unquote)

QUEZON

* This is a radiogram from President Quezon, Washington, D. C, March 20, 1937, to Secretary Vargas, which the latter telephoned to Vice President Osmeña, at Baguio, March 22, 1937.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Relief for Tondo Sufferers

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Relief for Tondo Fire Sufferers**

[Released to the Press, April 8, 1937]

Secretary Vargas, Manila

Am shocked to hear of the fire in Tondo (stop) Get the Philippine Army and all the means at the command of the Government coöperate with the City of Manila to give relief to the people (stop) Keep me informed

QUEZON

* This is a cablegram received by Secretary Vargas from President Quezon, at Washington, D. C, April 8, 1937.

In connection with the Tondo fire, Secretary Vargas issued the following statement to the Press, April 9, 1937:

By authority of His Excellency, the President, notice is hereby given that government officials and employees of the National Government residing in Tondo, who, by reason of the fire which devastated a great portion of that district last Wednesday, April 7th, were not able to come to their respective offices the following day, April 8th, will not be considered as absent.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement on Quota of Domestic Consumption Sugar for 1937, July 6, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

QUOTA OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION SUGAR FOR 1937

[Released to the Press, July 6, 1937]

Before fixing the 1937 and 1938 quotas for domestic consumption sugar the Domestic Sugar Administration first heard both the planters and the centrals. While the officers of the Philippine Sugar Association contend that the actual amount of sugar consumed in the Philippines every year is 70,000 short tons, the representatives of the Confederation of Sugar Planters' Associations claim that local consumption of centrifugal sugar is close to 100,000 short tons. In view of these conflicting views, the Domestic Sugar Administration decided to fix the quota of domestic consumption sugar for 1937 at approximately 91,000 short tons, and that for 1938, at 93,000 short tons.

In attempting to look into the cause or causes of the present fall in sugar prices, however, the Domestic Sugar Administration has recently found reason to question accuracy of the official estimate of the Philippine Sugar Association as well as that of the Confederation of Sugar Planters' Association. Statistics covering the total amount of sugar produced and exported for the last four years, as compiled by the Philippine Sugar Association, reveal that, after deducting the quantities of domestic consumption as well as reserve sugar remaining on hand at the end of 1936, the average yearly consumption of domestic sugar during 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936 is nearly 150,000 short tons, or more than twice the official estimate of the Philippine Sugar Association. The Domestic Sugar Administrator has, therefore, summoned representatives of both the Philippine Sugar Association and those of the Confederation of Sugar Planters' Associations to a conference to inquire into the bases of their respective estimates which vary so much from that indicated by the sugar statistics of the past four years.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement on Rules for the Rizal Biography Contest, July 20, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

RULES FOR THE RIZAL BIOGRAPHY CONTEST

[Released to the Press, July 20, 1937]

Rules Governing the Rizal Biography Contest, Sponsored by the Office of the President of the Philippines:

Authorship:

1. Only *bona fide* Filipino citizens may compete; no age limit; no sex distinction.
2. Individual authorship is preferred; joint authorship is acceptable but each manuscript should be the work of not more than two authors.
3. Competing author or authors may submit more than one manuscript.

Manuscripts:

1. Four (4) typewritten copies of a competing manuscript should be submitted to the Board of Judges.
2. No competing manuscript should be less than 80,000 words in length, excluding footnotes, bibliographical lists, and appendices.
3. All manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced, on regular bond paper, letter-size (8 X 10 1/2 inches).
4. Pertinent data, like illustrations, bibliographies, etc., should be included in the manuscript.
5. Competing manuscripts should bear only the pseudonym of the author or authors. In a sealed envelope, the real name of the author or authors should appear together with the corresponding pseudonym used.

Style and Medium of Expression:

1. Manuscripts may be written either in English or Spanish.
2. The contestants may adopt any style or form in writing Rizal's biography.

Date of Submission of Manuscripts:

1. All manuscripts should be in the hands of the Board of Judges on or before the 16th day of October, 1938. No manuscript submitted after 12 o'clock midnight of that day (October 16, 1938) will be accepted. Those dropped in the mails, when bearing postmarks not later than the above date and hour, will be considered as submitted on time.
2. Send manuscripts to the *President of the Philippines' Rizal Biography Contest*, Malacañan, Manila.

Decision of the Judges:

1. Announcement of awards will be made by the Board of Judges on December 30th, 1938, that is, on the 42nd anniversary of Rizal's death.
2. The Board of Judges is given absolute liberty to select the compositions which in its judgment merit the prize or prizes. The decision of the said Board will be final.
3. The Board of Judges reserves the right to withhold the giving of any or all of the prizes if in its judgment none of the manuscripts submitted deserves to receive such prize or prizes.

Prizes:

1. Three thousand pesos (P3,000) in cash will be awarded to the manuscript winning first place.
2. One thousand pesos (P1,000) in cash will be awarded to the manuscript winning second place.
3. The third winning composition will be given honorable mention.

Rights of Authorship:

1. The first-prize winning manuscript will become the property of the Government, which shall have the rights of publication and translation.
2. All other manuscripts may be printed and published by their respective authors at their own expense if they wish.
3. No manuscripts submitted will be returned to the owners. They will be included in the Rizaliana collection of the National Library.

All communications in this regard should be addressed to the *President of the Philippines' Rizal Biography Contest*, Malacañan, Manila.

Note.—The Filipiniana Division of the National Library located in the former session hall of the Philippine Senate, 3rd floor of the Legislative Building, Manila, will be glad to place its facilities and materials containing all available data on the life of Dr. Jose Rizal at the disposal of any participant in the contest subject to the rules and regulations governing the use of the materials in said Division. This Division is open from 8:00 a. m. to 12.00 noon and from 1:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m. from Monday to Friday, and from 7:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. on Saturdays.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement on Delegates to the Seventh World Educational Conference, July 30, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**DELEGATES TO THE SEVENTH WORLD EDUCATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

[Released to the Press, July 30, 1937]

The following have been authorized by this Government to attend the Seventh World Conference of the World Federation of Education Associations, which will be held at Tokyo, Japan, from August 2 to 7, 1937:

Dean Francisco Benitez	Mrs. Juliana C. Pineda
Dr. Isidoro Panlasigui	Miss Asuncion Reyes
Prof. Aurelio C. Ramos	Mr. Vicente M. Reyes
Mrs. Louisa S. Isidro	Mr. Prudencio Langcauon
Dr. Herminio Velarde	Mr. Sancho Enriquez
Dr. Nemesio B. Mendiola	Dr. Mariano C. Icasiano
Prof. Gabriel A. Bernardo	Mrs. Vicenta Ponce
Mr. Solomon V. Arnaldo	Miss Genara Manongdo
Prof. Emilia Malabanan	Mr. Balbino I. Deang
Dr. Gilbert S. Perez	Mrs. A. J. del Carmen
Mrs. Petrona Ramos	Mr. Benito Pañgilinan
Mr. Serafin Aquino	Dr. Cristina Cabrera
Mrs. Visitacion C. Gonzales	Mr. Mariano V. de los Santos
Mr. Evaristo de Lara	Mr. Honorato Ramos
Dr. Enrique Sobrepeña	Mrs. Lorenza de Jesus
Dr. Mauro Baradi	Miss Asuncion Enrique
Mrs. Concepcion Santiago	Mrs. Lourdes J. Intengan
Mrs. Trinidad Alampay-Albero	Mr. Severino Paguia
Mrs. Rufino Martinez	Miss Concepcion Aguila
Miss Felisa Labayan	Miss Minerva Guysayko
Mrs. Miguela Jhocson	Mr. Jose Paterno
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bugante	Mr. Gregorio Zaide
Mr. Eduardo Quintero	Mr. Cristobal Manalo

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Restoration of Old Pensions to Retired Employees, September 9, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

RESTORATION OF OLD PENSIONS TO RETIRED EMPLOYEES

[Released to the Press, September 9, 1937]

I am very happy over the report that the National Assembly has speedily and without a dissenting vote approved in second reading- a law restoring the old pensions paid to those who had already retired from the service and were receiving pensions when the former pension systems were abolished. This is an act of simple justice. It is not only a matter of sacred fundamental policy for governments to make good every obligation they undertake, but it is also in the long run the soundest and most beneficial policy for the nation itself that avows it and inflexibly adheres to it.

The Philippines is a new nation on the threshold of its complete political independence. She is about to enter into the family of nations and she must carry with her a name that will command respect from all quarters for the justice and fairness of the acts of the Government of the Commonwealth. Our national credit will be enhanced and strengthened by the act which the National Assembly has just passed.

My heartiest congratulations to the Speaker and members of the National Assembly and to the people of the Philippines for their worthy representatives.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: On quoting the President of the Philippines in the Press, September 10, 1937

**Press Statement
On Quoting the President of the Philippines in the Press**

[Released to the Press on September 10, 1937]

In view of repeated cases reported in the press in which persons who have had conferences with the President had attributed statements and opinions as having come from him, the attention of those calling on the Chief Executive is directed to a rule which is recognized and in force everywhere—except up to this time in the Philippines—namely:

That the head of the Government may not be quoted except by specific authorization. Only the President or his authorized spokesman may publish opinions, statements or communications as coming from the head of the Government, and, except in those cases, any statement or opinion attributed to him should be taken as unauthorized and groundless.

Any person or persons violating this rule thereafter will be denied access to the President.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the members of the Philippines Historical Committee, September 15, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINES HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

[Released to the Press, September 15, 1937]

The President today authorized the appointment of the following as members of the Philippines Historical Committee, created under Executive Order No. 91, in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 169, appropriating P50,000 for the identification, marking, and preservation of historical monuments and places:

1. Mr. Walter Robb, of the American Chamber of Commerce, for a term of 3 years;
2. Professor Jaime C. de Veyra, Chairman of the National Language Institute, for a term of 3 years;
3. Father Miguel Selga, Director of the Weather Bureau, for a term of 3 years;
4. Dean Edward R. Hyde, of the College of Engineering, University of the Philippines, for term of 2 years;
5. Acting Director Eulogio B. Rodriguez, of the National Library, for a term of 2 years;
6. Dr. H. Otley Beyer, Archaeologist, University of the Philippines, for a term of 2 years;
7. Dean Leandro H. Fernandez, College of Liberal Arts, University of the Philippines, for a term of 1 year;
8. Dr. Jose P. Bantug, of the Bureau of Health, for a term of 1 year; and
9. Mr. Luis Serrano, Chief of the Education and Press Relations Division, Malacañan, for a term of 1 year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: Misquoting President Quezon Re Cuevo-Barredo Case, September 23, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**MISQUOTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES RE
CUEVO-BARREDO CASE**

[Released to the Press, September 23, 1937]

The Philippines Herald in its issue of September 22nd, attributes to the President a statement as made in his conference with the press in connection with the case recently decided by the courts denying the petitioner the right to be indemnified for the death of a laborer who was drowned in the Pasig River in obedience of the order of an employee of Barredo & Co. that "if we have more decisions of that nature, I shall ask the National Assembly to suppress the judiciary in the Philippines", and to emphasize the news, the article wherein it appears carries this headline: "Decision on Laborer's Case Brings Threat of Court Abolition."

On its face, the statement attributed to the President is absurd, for the least informed individual knows that the National Assembly has no power to abolish the judiciary in the Philippines as this branch of the Government is not a creature of an act of the legislature but of the Constitution itself. The absurdity of the statement is so apparent that it should not be necessary to deny it. This denial is, however, made so as to serve as public notice that newspapers attributing to the President statements that he has not made or could not have made by the very nature of the statements themselves, will not be permitted to send representatives to the weekly conferences of the President.

The Vanguardia of the same date carries a substantially correct version of the conference.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Chief Executive's Criticism of Judicial Decisions, September 25, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CRITICISM OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS

[Released to the Press, September 25, 1937]

To my critics, to those who would assert that the Chief Executive may not publicly express his condemnation of a court's decision that he considers unjust because that is an encroachment upon the independence of the Judiciary, my answer is that if my said critics are right in their theory—which I know they are not—if they were right, I say, then I would not want to be Chief Executive because the presidency would be too high a price to pay for a man to be mum in the face of an outrageous injustice.

To those who believe that I have violated the duties of my office when I criticized the decision of the Court of Manila and the confirming decision of the Court of Appeals (Second Division) on the Cuevo-Barredo case, my advice is that they go and impeach me before the National Assembly. And if the National Assembly should condemn me, I would accept that verdict as the expression of the Filipino people's conception regarding the duties of the Chief Executive. In such a case, I would say without hesitation that I do not want to be the President of a people whose conception of the duties of the Head of the Government is to sit by and keep quiet when other branches of the Government, in his opinion, are doing wrong.

* The following are some of the telegrams received at Malacañan re stand of the President on Cuevo-Barredo case:

San Fernando, Pampanga
September 26, 1937

President
Malacañan, Manila

Quezon

Let me congratulate you on your courageous stand against reactionary judges. Injustices committed by courts are main sources of discontent among masses resulting in hostility against government.

PEDRO ABAD SANTOS

Moncada, Tarlac, Sept. 27, 1937

His Excellency
President of the Philippines Manila

Manuel

L.

Quezon

Heartly congratulate His Excellency's constructive opinion on Cuevo-Barredo case.

SILVINO ISLA

Baliuag, Bulacan
Sept. 26, 1937

President
Malacañan, Manila.

Quezon

Humblest citizen Baliuag, Bulacan congratulates you for your courageous stand against injustice.

FRANCISCO PONCE

Gapan, September 27, 1937

Ang
Manuel
Pañgulo ng Pilipinas, Maynila

Kanyang
L.

Kamahalmahalan
Quezon

Ang Samahang "Ahak" ng manggagawa sa lalawigan Nueva Ecija ay nagpapasalamat at binabati kayo sa ipinamalas na pagtangkilik sa karapatan ng isang manggagawang nalunod.

YGNACIO CABATUANDO
Pañgulong Panglalawigan
ng Samahang "Ahak"

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: Letters of Congratulations to President Quezon Re Cuevo-Barredo Case, September 28, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS RE CUEVO-BARREDO CASE

[Released to the Press, September 28, 1937]

Letters from several parts of the country commending and praising the President's stand on the Cuevo-Barredo case continue to pour in at this Office, following on the heels of telegrams which came in earlier. The writers of these letters range from humble farm hands and low-salaried employees to professional and business men, but they are all unanimous in their expression of unconditional support of the President and effusive in their praise of his courageous stand.

Writing on the case, Meliton L. Lejano, lawyer and business man, said in part, "I emphatically disagree with the seemingly general impression that your vituperation was uncalled for and that it will undermine our faith in the judiciary. Hope springs eternal in the human breast and we don't easily lose faith in the judiciary until we receive raw decisions. Therefore, it is the raw decisions themselves and not what is said about them that will crumple our faith in the judiciary."

Among other things, Amado R. Sanchez says: "In all your political career I had been with you only once. That was in the bitter controversy over the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law. I thought I was born against you. I had the idea that you were always on the side of the well-to-do. Today I have changed that boyish idea, since you became president. * * * Your criticism of the recent judicial decision on the case of the late Lozano convinced me really that you are no longer playing hide and seek in politics. Will you please continue to do so in the good name of justice and to erase from the minds of the masses their doubts about the courts?"

Bishop Isabelo de los Reyes, Jr., of the Filipino Independent Church, writes in this vein, "It is notorious and it is almost considered as an axiom among the laborers and the modest employees that * * * there are no worst masters than the rich Filipinos. We are confident that the recent censure of your Excellency of our judges and heartless capitalists will foment a new spirit of equality for the masses."

From José P. Daquis comes a plea to the President not to abandon the fight in behalf of the poor. He says, "You said that this is one fight you have your soul in. We hope that in spite of outbursts from so-called legal minds you will not abandon this just cause you have so readily and fearlessly espoused. We the common people feel, and we are confident we feel right about it, that you will stand by the down-trodden until the fight is eventually won."

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Reelection of the President of the Philippines, October 19, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

REELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Released to the Press, October 19, 1937]

My attention has been called to a statement attributed to my friend, Commissioner Paredes, advocating my reelection as President of the Philippines, and to certain news items in today's papers speaking of alleged movements on the part of labor leaders to the same effect. I have, on more than one occasion, laughed out talks of this sort thinking that that would be sufficient to stop it, but this time I feel that I must go further and state the reasons why I will not, under any circumstances, accept a second term.

The clause in the Constitution prohibiting a second term for the presidency of the Philippines has been inserted through my own efforts and this I did when amongst the members of the National Convention there was already the general expectation that I would be the first President of the Commonwealth. The Antis in that convention who constituted more than two-thirds of the total membership, were opposed to such a clause precisely on the ground that they wanted to be free when the time came to make me their candidate for reelection. I had to talk personally to the President of the Convention, my friend ex-Justice Recto, to the Chairman of the Committee that drafted the Constitution, Filemon Sotto of Cebu, to the present Secretary of Public Works and Communications Cuenco, who was then a prominent member of the Constitutional Assembly, to Vicente Sotto, the publisher of *Union*, and to many others, in order to have the said clause embodied in the Constitution. I shall certainly not stultify myself by giving my consent to any attempt to amend the Constitution to permit my reelection. If we were to amend the Constitution in this respect, the outside world would immediately say that we are following in the Philippines the same course that for years has been followed by some of the Latin American republics and which has been mainly responsible for many of the revolutions in those countries.

No man can be President of any country for twelve years and do his duty well without succumbing physically to the weight of the burden. I have spent my whole life in the public service and the few remaining years that it may please God to give me life, after the 31st of December, 1941, when my term expires, I have the right to enjoy in peace. But this is not the main consideration which might be called a selfish motive. My definite refusal to consider another term as President is due to the fact that if I were to allow myself to be tempted by any such ambition, I would endanger the achievement of those very objectives which are so dear to my heart, and which the labor leaders say is their principal reason for advocating my candidacy. I have reached a point where in the ordinary course of life my days are numbered and it would be the height of folly for me to sacrifice everything including the success of my administration to mere love of power. So those friends of mine who want to see me succeed in my endeavor to give the common man a square deal should stop any movement looking toward the amendment of the Constitution in order to secure my reelection.

No man is necessary, and if it were true that outside of Manuel L. Quezon there is no other man in our country who can be the Chief Executive of the Philippines, I would immediately start working for the enactment of a law by the Congress of the United States that will require the appointment of an American Governor-General for the Philippines.

There is no need of keeping me at the head of this Government for the program of social justice to be realized. After having started the movement for the amelioration of the lot of the masses, as I have, it will go on indefinitely on its own momentum. Let no one fool himself into believing that any man or group of men, or any class can successfully oppose the onward march of justice. Once started there is no power that can stop or hold it back.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: Letters from the United States Congratulating President Quezon Re Cuevo-Barredo Case,
October 21, 1937**

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**LETTERS FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRATULATING
THE PRESIDENT RE CUEVO-BARREDO CASE**

[Released to the Press, October 21, 1937]

This Office is in receipt of two letters from the United States warmly congratulating the President of the Philippines for his stand on social justice in connection with the now celebrated Cuevo-Barredo case. The writers, an American, president of a ball club, and a Puerto Rican residing in New York, applaud the President's action as admirably courageous and one that should be long remembered by Filipinos.

"Congratulations, my Dear Sir," writes Willis E. Johnson, president of the Cincinnati Ball Club, Cincinnati, Ohio," for the manner and the courage you displayed in behalf of the man who was drowned. They are men like you who live long in the memories of your countrymen, and I feel that your high and most honorable position should be made permanent, * * * I am not in the habit of writing letters of criticism * * * I do not belong to any union, but I do believe in a fair deal to everyone. * * * It just so happens that I am engaged in baseball, a game where the "umpire" renders a just decision to everyone, be he a visiting or a home ball player."

The other letter comes from Mr. Guillermo Besosa, a Puerto Rican residing in Kenmore, New York. Written in Spanish, it says in part, "I, who am neither a laborer nor a Filipino, but a Puerto Rican, believe it my duty to address you these simple lines, motivated solely by the innate desire to express to you my complete admiration of your civic gallantry and honesty."

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: Survey of Water Power of the Philippines, October 23, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

SURVEY OF WATER POWER OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Released to the Press, October 23, 1937]

Upon the request of President Quezon, two officers of the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, Captain Hugh J. Casey and Captain Lucius Du B. Clay, have just been assigned to the Office of the Military Adviser for the purpose of conducting a general survey on the practical possibilities of water power development in the Philippine Islands. This survey will devote special attention to those water power projects that offer the most favorable opportunity for successful development, taking into consideration the present and probable future demands for power. The report of this survey will also include recommendations as to the feasibility and cost of hydro-electric power projects that have already been investigated by the Bureau of Public Works and the National Power Corporation at the following places:

Agno	River,	Mountain	and	Pangasinan	Provinces.		
Angat		River,		Bulacan	Province.		
Agos		River,		Tayabas	Province.		
Lake	Buhi	and	Barit	River,	Camarines	Sur	Province.
Quinali		River,		Albay	Province.		
Lake Lanao and Agus River, Lanao Province.							

These officers will also study the existing laws governing the utilization of public waters and lands for power development with a view to amending such laws, if advisable, to facilitate power enterprises consistent with the proper protection of public interest. They will also examine the flood control plans for the Agno and Pampanga River Systems in Central Luzon now under consideration by the Flood Control Commission, and make recommendations as to the feasibility and adequacy of such plans.

Captain Casey and Captain Clay are considered outstanding experts in the field of water power development.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Giving Ample Powers to the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
Giving Ample Powers to the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines

[Released to the Press, November 11, 1937]

To give ample powers to the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines so that the board in thus assuming full responsibility may more effectively run the state university and raise its standard, is the policy of the present administration, according to an announcement made by President Quezon at a meeting of the regents which he called at Malacañan at 9.30 this morning.

To carry out this policy, the President declared that he will recommend to the National Assembly that more leeway be given to the Board of Regents in the disposal of funds appropriated for the university by eliminating certain restrictions imposed in the appropriations act.

President Quezon stressed the fact that it is his belief that the prime duty of the state, insofar as education is concerned, is to give elementary instruction to the youth of the land and that if the state is to maintain a university, such university must serve a definite purpose which is the highest standard of university education. To maintain such a high standard, the President said that he feels it is necessary that the Board of Regents be given a more effective control in the running of the institution. He further declared that the university should stress quality rather than quantity.

Immediately after the President's announcement and after he had left the Cabinet room, Vice-President Osmeña who as Secretary of Public Instruction is Chairman of the Board of Regents, called the board to a meeting and it was agreed to ask President Bocobo to submit to the board not later than January of next year a comprehensive plan which will include how the amount to be appropriated by the National Assembly will be spent, a program for improving the present standard of the university. The board also requested the President to submit the record of each member of the faculty, with a view to study the advisability of sending some of the present professors abroad and to what extent it will be necessary to reinforce the present faculty by employing foreign educators, and which unit of the university should either be curtailed or expanded and what new courses should be added.

Vice-President Osmeña also announced that he will soon effect a reorganization of the present standing committees of the Board of Regents.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Statement: President Quezon on work of Joint Preparatory Committee in the Philippines

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On work of Joint Preparatory Committee in the Philippines

[Released to the Press, November 12, 1937]

I am informed that the American members of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs are sailing today on the steamship *President Coolidge*. While the Committee has not come to any definite conclusion as to what its recommendations should be—and it is not to be expected that it could have done it in such a short time,—it may properly be said that the work of the Committee has been thorough and that every day it has spent in the Philippines has been devoted to the task assigned to it. I have refrained from having intervention of any sort in the work of the Committee and I am not even informed of what it has done, but from reports that have come to me from sources other than members of the Committee themselves, I am under the impression that it has done what has been humanly possible for it to do to get at the facts upon which its recommendations may be based.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work done by the Committee and to convey my thanks to Ambassador MacMurray and every one of the members of the Committee, both American and Filipino.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: President Quezon on conditions in the Philippine Military Academy

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon: On conditions in the Philippine Military Academy

[Released to the Press on November 17, 1937]

A thorough investigation was conducted by the Army to ascertain whether there might be some substantiation for the sensational attack made by the Bulletin on the Philippine Military Academy. A canvass of the Cadet Corps was conducted by the Superintendent personally, during which he interviewed every cadet of the senior class. Not a single cadet was found who supported the views expressed in the Bulletin. The only possible source for such a story that was unearthed consisted of a letter written by a disgruntled cadet, who recently entered the Academy, to his family in Manila. The general conditions at the Military Academy are admirable. It is inspected frequently and supervised closely by officers of the American Army, who are distinguished graduates from West Point. The course of instruction is practically the same as at West Point, and it is, as far as a new institution can be developed in so short a space of time as two years, a replica of West Point. Its Superintendent is a graduate of that institution. Due to the expansion of the Academy and the relatively few regular officers in the Philippine Army, many of the academic instructors are drawn from University circles. The University of the Philippines has been the main source of such supply. Only the most outstanding graduates have been selected. All of them are distinguished in their specialties. No higher source from which to select instructors is available within the Philippines. They have been trained in the R. O. T. C. course of the University and many have taken the Reserve training at the Baguio School. Their work has been reported as excellent in every respect. These instructors are not charged primarily with the tactical and disciplinary training of the cadets, which is entrusted to officers of the regular army who are experts in that line as differentiated from those who are experts along educational lines. The instructors from the University are commissioned as Reserve officers largely as a matter of overhead convenience, to determine their rates of pay, relative standing and other overhead incidentals. As a rule, they are many years older than even the Senior cadets. There is but one instance of an instructor who was a classmate of a cadet, and this was due to the fact that the cadet while a member of the University was delayed in his matriculation from that institution. In this connection it is pertinent to recall that not only the Military Academy at West Point, but also every other distinguished educational institution in the United States employs its young graduates as its instructors. At West Point at one time distinguished first-class men were formerly detailed as instructors and wore a special uniform on that account. At many universities undergraduates are employed as special coaches for backward students. The Military Academy at Baguio is one of the brightest features of the Philippine Army. In University circles it probably has no superior in the Philippines or in the Far East. Its discipline is excellent and it is fulfilling its great mission in a most admirable manner. There is no apparent warrant for the sensational attack that has been made against it, and I unhesitatingly stamp as uninvestigated and unsubstantiated the story put forth by a reporter of the Bulletin.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on Nonparticipation in the provincial and municipal elections in Laguna,
November 19, 1937**

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**NONPARTICIPATION IN THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL
ELECTION IN LAGUNA**

[Released to the Press, November 19, 1937]

With reference to the elections in Laguna, I desire to say that I am not interested in any candidate for provincial or municipal office in said province any more than I am in any other province. My interest in Laguna is that the provincial and municipal authorities who may be elected rescue the good name of the province from the reputation of being the den of "jueteng." I understand that Assemblyman Bonifacio has been nominated as the official candidate of the Nationalista Party. This is a matter of purely party organization with which I have nothing to do.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: President Quezon on Management of Relief Fund for Typhoon Sufferers

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Management of Relief Fund for Typhoon Sufferers

[Released to the Press on December 8, 1937]

The expenditure of the fund voted in the last session of the National Assembly for the relief of typhoon sufferers, amounting to half a million pesos, has been placed in the hands of Dr. José Fabella, Commissioner of Health and Welfare, in order to expedite the carrying out of relief measures in the provinces affected by the last typhoon which visited the Visayas. This has enabled Commissioner Fabella to organize relief units without much delay and to send much-needed aid in the form of relief workers and supplies to the regions most severely hit by the recent storm.

Yesterday, December 7, Doctor Asturias was sent to Romblon with two nurses and a large quantity of rice. Today, December 8, another relief unit headed by Dr. José M. Salazar is leaving for Borongan, Samar, with two nurses and a supply of rice, to cover the eastern coast of that province. The southwestern part will be covered by the unit under Dr. Ramon Panlileo Guerrero who, with two nurses and medical and food supplies, will leave Manila tomorrow, December 9. Doctor Estrada has been sent as advance physician to Leyte and two nurses are leaving today to join him. Another doctor, Doctor Escano, is leaving for Capiz tomorrow.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on wishing the people of the Philippines a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On wishing the people of the Philippines a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

(Released to the Press on December 24, 1937)

To the People of the Philippines:

Deep in the hearts of the Filipino people is the tradition of a joyous celebration of Christmas, the season of rejoicing in the present and of boundless hope in the future.

Today it is my sincere wish that the happiness which Christmas brings may reach every inhabitant of the Philippines, to the humblest of our citizens; and that the spirit of affection and goodwill which reigns on Christmas Day may continue through the days that follow.

To all of you, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on death of late Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, December 27, 1937

PRESS STATEMENT*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

DEATH OF LATE SECRETARY OF WAR NEWTON D. BAKER

[Released to the Press, December 27, 1937]

Mrs. Newton D. Baker
Cleveland Ohio

I am shocked to learn of the demise of Secretary Baker, one of the greatest men America has ever produced. I shall never forget that he had been a constant advocate of Philippine Independence and that as Secretary of War had rendered my country invaluable services. I extend to you my heartfelt sympathy.

QUEZON

* This is a radiogram from President Quezon, Manila, to Mrs. Newton D. Baker, Cleveland, Ohio, December 27, 1937.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on retention of Marshal Douglas MacArthur as Military Adviser of the Commonwealth

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On retention of Marshal Douglas MacArthur as Military Adviser of the Commonwealth

[Released to the Press, December 31, 1937]

I have just completed a thorough discussion with General MacArthur, of the National Defense and peace problem of the Philippines. Up to the present time, his connection with this transcendent and all important matter, has been that of an agency of the American Government, detailed to such duty by the President of the United States upon the request of the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, under conditions stipulated in a special act of the American Congress. With General MacArthur's retirement from the active list of the American Army this condition changes. General MacArthur is now a free agent no longer acting under the orders of his government. I am aware of his reported desire to close his public career and return to his ancestral home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and resume there the brilliant tradition of his famous father, General Arthur MacArthur, former Military Governor of these Islands, and his equally distinguished grandfather, Governor Arthur MacArthur of Wisconsin. In my discussion with the General, I outlined the stupendous importance of carrying to fruition the peace and defense plan for the Philippines. The purpose of the plan is to prevent war. Its object is peace without battle. Its possibility of attainment is based upon a proper neutrality policy for the Philippines and an adequate defense establishment. This latter was to be of such strength as to impose such a cost of conquest upon a potential invader as would exceed any hope he might logically entertain of political or economic advantage to be gained by victory. By thus removing any possibility of conquest representing an economic short cut, the chance of predatory attack would be greatly lessened, if not entirely eliminated. This prospect of peace for the Philippines is properly a hope and ideal for the world because it would constitute one of the strongest guarantees of tranquility in the Pacific. It is an ideal that can and should be supported by every civilized nation of the world. The Philippines, for obvious reasons, can never be a threat to any other nation in the world, so long as it is neutral in its policies and adequately defended against predatory attack by its military establishment. The consummation of such a magnificent ideal, I told General MacArthur, demanded his continued presence, as its success required the highest qualifications, not only of military leadership and judgment but also the highest form of international statesmanship. In its later phases it meant much more than the tactical ability to mold an army, however difficult and important such a task might be, but required a vision and an experience in international relationship that could not be overestimated. The difficulties besetting us are great. Defeatists are everywhere. But from the beginning General MacArthur's faith and confidence in the ability of the Filipino people to achieve success has never varied. They have matched even my own faith in my country and in my countrymen. I frankly told him that I would be at a loss to replace him and that I felt unfortunate consequences might result from his departure. I, therefore, requested him to remain and continue the great task for the Philippines, for America, and for the world, with which he has so completely identified himself. I am happy to say that the Marshal unhesitatingly yielded any personal predilection he may have entertained and agreed to continue and help me.

* Commenting on this statement, General MacArthur said: "This is a call of duty I cannot fail."

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on new positions in the 1939 budget, January 12, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On new positions in the 1939 budget

[Released to the Press on January 12, 1938]

A news item which appeared in some papers, referring to the conference held by the President with the members of the Appropriation Committee, may have given the impression that the President has agreed with members of the Committee to permit intervention in the selection of the persons to fill the new positions authorized in the budget. This question was not even discussed in the conference. The President called this conference with the chairman and members of the Appropriation Committee and the ranking member of the Committee on Rules of the Assembly for two purposes:

1. To discuss with the Budget Commission and members of the Appropriation Committee some of the policies with which the 1939 budget is to be harmonized. It was also called to explain that the change of the opening date of the sessions of the National Assembly considerably shortens the period within which the President must submit the 1939 budget and comply with the time allowed for the purpose by the Constitution. Under the circumstances the President wishes it known that the limited time at his disposal for the presentation of the budget will compel him to submit a budget almost identical to that of 1938, subject to such modifications as existing conditions and known policies may require, and the President submitting such supplementary messages as a further study of the budget and the finances of the Government in 1939 may warrant.
2. To request the members of the Appropriation Committee to discuss with the Budget Commission what, if any, of the new positions authorized in the budget should be filled. The budget for 1938 recommended the creation of over two thousand new positions and the National Assembly, not having sufficient time to consider in detail the merits of the recommendation for these new positions, approved it with a proviso that none of these positions should be filled except with the specific approval of the President. The President feels that it would be in the interest of the service to invite the members of the Appropriation Committee of the Assembly to go over these proposed positions and express their opinion thereon as to whether they should be filled or not. While the question of carrying out the provisions of the Appropriation Law is purely an executive function, the President likewise feels that the Executive is not renouncing any of his prerogatives by sounding the advice of the members of the National Assembly in this particular case, in view of the circumstances surrounding it.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on major accomplishments of Department of Public Instruction in 1937,
January 15, 1938**

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On major accomplishments of Department of Public Instruction in 1937

[Released to the Press on January 15, 1938]

Great strides along educational lines were made last year despite the manifold obstacles which beset the officials in charge of public instruction, a report of Vice-President Sergio Osmeña, Secretary of Public Instruction, to the President discloses. Among the major accomplishments of the Department may be listed the opening of new classes to offset, to a certain extent, the grave school crisis; the progress made in the revision of the courses of study in order to place greater emphasis on character education and citizenship; and the launching of the campaign for adult education by the newly-created Office of Adult Education.

Figures furnished by the Bureau of Education show that last year 3,650 new classes were organized and approximately 200,000 additional children admitted into the elementary schools. This has served, at least, to assuage, if not to remove entirely, a constant source of irritation on the part of the parents paying their taxes and subject to the laws of the country who heretofore had been unable to secure the admission of their children into the public schools. The number of these new classes, of course, was necessarily limited by the appropriation made available by the National Assembly.

The new courses on which the Bureau of Education has been working will place greater emphasis on citizenship training and on the fostering of nationalism, with a view to instilling in the pupils' minds a broad and human patriotism, the report states. These courses are said to be nearing completion and will soon be given final revision.

Regarding adult education, the report mentions that 311 adult education committees have so far been organized in the different municipalities. The number of these committees is increasing rapidly, and it is hoped that within a short time the number will be sufficiently large to cover the whole Philippines. These adult education committees, the report goes on to state have so far organized 58 schools with a total enrollment of 3,686 illiterate adults. There is also an adult school for illiterate trainees in each of the 120 training cadres. According to estimates, one-third of the adult population of the country may be classified as illiterates.

A bill providing for the accommodation of all children of primary school age who seek admission into public schools and, for the compulsion of all children once enrolled in the school to complete, at least the fourth grade, prepared by the National Council of Education, has been submitted by the Department to the National Assembly. The Council has also approved a resolution shortening the elementary instruction from seven to six years. According to the report, as soon as this resolution is received in the Department the necessary instructions will be given the Director of Education so that all children who complete the primary grades next March may begin with the new intermediate course in June, 1938. The aforementioned bill is the result of the Council's study on the problem of providing sufficient funds to admit into the primary schools at least all children seeking admission and of increasing the number of years that the average child remains in school. A large scale program, it is explained, should be held in abeyance first, inasmuch as the figures from the new census will not be available for some time yet, and an accurate data on the number of children of school age is not yet available. The revision of the curricula of both the elementary and secondary schools is still under consideration by the Council.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on government iron ore mines in Surigao, January 18, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On government iron ore mines in Surigao

[Released to the Press on January 18, 1938]

After a conference with the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce and the Secretary of Justice this morning at which the several proposals for mining the government iron ore mines in Surigao were submitted and discussed, the President decided that the Government itself, through the National Development Company, should mine these properties and find the market for the ore. Steps will be taken immediately to have the National Development Company, with the advice of Doctor Bain, world-known authority on mines, to undertake the preliminary work which will provide the Government with concrete information as to whether these mines can be profitably operated or not.

It was finally decided to let the National Development Company undertake this work in view of the provision of the Constitution to the effect that only nationals and, during the life of the Commonwealth, Americans, (and in the case of corporations or associations, only those at least 60 per cent of whose capital is owned by such citizens) can exploit, develop or utilize the natural resources of the Philippines. Since the risk that will be taken by the Government in this preliminary study will not involve in any case more than P200,000, it has been deemed wise to make this experiment to determine whether in some cases of nationally-owned mines, if not in all, the Government itself, through the National Development Company, may not exploit the mines so that all the profits, both from the operation of the mines and from the sale of the products, will accrue to the Government.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on death of former Resident Commissioner Pedro Guevara, January 19, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On death of former Resident Commissioner Pedro Guevara

[Released to the Press, January 19, 1938]

I am shocked to learn of the death of former Commissioner Pedro Guevara. He was for many years one of the dearest friends I have ever had. Commissioner Guevara had been a devoted and very able public servant as member of the National Assembly, of the Philippine Senate, and for many years as Resident Commissioner in the United States from the Philippines. He rendered this country a service that very few have had the opportunity to render. He was a man with sincere convictions. He stood his ground regardless of whether or not it affected him adversely politically. He was the friend of his friends to a fault. His death is one of the greatest losses that this country has ever suffered.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on attitude of Filipino people toward Congressman O'Malley's proposed resolution on immediate freedom, January 27, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On Attitude of Filipino people toward Congressman O'Malley's proposed resolution on immediate freedom

[Radiogram sent by the President to Commissioner Paredes at
Washington, D. C, January 27, 1938.]

[Released on January 27, 1938]

O'Malley's proposed resolution represents an attitude regarding American-Philippine relationship that is not new nor very rare.

Fortunately for the good name of America and the welfare of the Filipino people such an attitude does not represent and never has represented the policy of neither the Executive Department of the United States Government nor of the American Congress.

By taking the Philippines forcibly both from Spain and from the Filipinos themselves America has voluntarily assumed, and it would seem deliberately, moral obligations towards the Filipino people as their guardian and trustee. This self-imposed obligation on the part of the United States has been publicly avowed by the American Government as voiced by McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, and every other President of the United States, including the present incumbent, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has repeatedly confirmed with deeds his own public pronouncements in this regard. The Congress has adopted as the national policy toward the Philippines those declarations made by American chief executives.

The economic policy of America affecting the Philippines which she promulgated upon her own initiative and responsibility has created an economic situation here that makes imperative the granting of sufficient time for the economic readjustment of this country before the present trade relations are completely terminated, unless the granting of independence is to be made with utter disregard of the economic and financial consequences with all its implications to the Philippines.

The foregoing is our view of American-Filipino relations as established and avowed by acts of the American Congress and of the Executive Department of the American Government.

However, both as the authorized spokesman for our people and as a Filipino, I shall not place myself in the position of refusing independence under any and all circumstances if and when it be so decided by the Congress. No self-respecting people would do otherwise.

My own preference, and I think I represent the consensus in this country, arrived at after mature deliberation, is that it will be equally in the interest of America and of the Philippines if independence were to be granted at the end of this or the beginning of next year and at the same time a trade arrangement between the United States and the Philippines agreed upon substantially in line with the views of President Roosevelt as recently published in the press.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on alleged terrorism against strikers in the sugar centrals of Barotac Nuevo and Janiuay, Iloilo, January 27, 1938

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On alleged terrorism against strikers in the Sugar Centrals
of Barotac Nuevo and Janiuay, Iloilo**

[Released to the Press, January 27, 1938]

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

ILOILO, January 25, 1938

Laborers sugar centrals in Barotac Nuevo and Janiuay have declared strike last Tuesday which remains unsettled. Strike due miserable situation laborers for many years neglected by authorities so that earning forty centavos daily many working fourteen hours a day and are subdued and exploited. Strikers all members Labor Federation ask only minimum wage of one peso and social justice as sponsored by you. These centrals do not comply labor laws on wages eight hours free medicine and others. Although conflict unsettled central in Janiuay resumed milling yesterday due terrorism constabulary police headed by Governor Confesor who employed strikebreakers (esquiroles) and defied strikers who until now eighth day strike have maintained peace without provoking any disorder. Abuses constabulary police reached such extreme in which they throw away inoffensive placards and appropriate federation flags which is provoking disorder but strikers submit. We ask protection and explanation whether to ask peacefully minimum salary and social justice the constabulary police and governor are justified to ignore our grievances hurt without motive and protect capitalists not complying laws by facilitating them with strikebreakers protected by Government. With this inquisitorial procedure laborers now do not get support of Government and social conflicts and mass discontents aggravating. Oppression exploitation Barotac Nuevo Janiuay confirmed Labor Bureau and resumption milling Janiuay increases discontent aggravating strike. We would like to get minimum salary and social justice as preached by Your Excellency and we are losing faith in local authorities who cripple your great program.

JOSÉ M. NAVA

TELEGRAM SENT

[Rush]

MANILA, January 27, 1938

José
Iloilo

M.

Nava

Answering your telegram January 25 I have ordered Governor Confesor and Provincial Commander to desist from intervening strike laborers and above all not to aid central find strikebreakers while strikers not using violence or provoking disorder. I advise you tell labor strikers not commit any act of violence or in any manner violate the laws. As you have assured me that strikers are maintaining peace Government will take immediate action to investigate causes strike and protect rights laborers if damaged. Inform the strikers that any public disorder or violence or threats committed by them damages their cause.

QUEZON

TELEGRAM SENT

[Rush]

Manila, *January 27, 1938*

Governor
Iloilo

Confesor

Nava telegraphed me complaining of terrorism on your part and that of Provincial Commander against strikers sugar centrals Barotac Nuevo and Janiuay. You are directed not to use Government forces unless acts of violence or violation of law are committed by strikers. You should be impartial in this conflict until the Department of Labor has had occasion to investigate and the Court of Industrial Relations determine which side is in the right. Adopt a policy of watchful vigilance and warn strikers as well as owners of centrals against any use of force or threat of public disorder. I am directing the Provincial Commander not to use Constabulary force except in case of public disorder or actual violations of law.

QUEZON

TELEGRAM SENT

[Rush]

MANILA, *January 27, 1938*

Provincial
Iloilo

Commander

The Constabulary must be absolutely impartial in the case of the strike in Barotac Nuevo and Janiuay. Constabulary force must not be used except to prevent public disorder or to arrest violators of law. Any use that may be made of the Constabulary by interested parties will be upon your responsibility.

QUEZON

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

[Rush]

ILOILO, *January 27, 1938*

President
Malacañan, Manila

Nava complaint of terrorism unfounded. I mobilized State Police with Constabulary cooperation only after several sugarcane fields were set on fire. Full detail my actuation on strike will be forwarded your office by air mail tomorrow. Strike situation under full control. Peace and order prevail strike area.

GOVERNOR CONFESOR

TELEGRAM SENT

MANILA, *January 27, 1938*

José
Iloilo

M.

Nava

Following is answer of Governor Confesor to your charge of terrorism Quote Nava complaint of terrorism unfounded. I mobilized State Police with Constabulary cooperation only after several sugarcane fields were set on fire. Full detail my actuation on strike will be forwarded your office by air mail tomorrow. Strike situation under full control. Peace and order prevail strike area Unquote. I am ordering investigation of facts. Meanwhile violation of the law on the part of the strikers will not be tolerated.

QUEZON

TELEGRAM SENT

MANILA, *January 27, 1938*

Governor
Iloilo

Confesor

Upon receipt of your report I will send representative of National Government to investigate and report on whole situation. Of course no violation of law must be tolerated but at same time you should bear in mind that the right to strike is recognized by existing laws.

QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on sanitary condition of the markets, January 27, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On sanitary condition of the markets

[Released to the Press, January 27, 1938]

In my inspection of the City markets, I found that sanitary rules are not being strictly complied with, but I cannot very well blame either the Mayor or the City Treasurer for the unsatisfactory condition of the markets. This is due to the fact that heretofore the policy of the Government has been to consider the markets primarily as a source of municipal income, and consequently the municipal authorities subordinate every other consideration to that primary purpose of raising revenues for the local government. The principal concern of the Government in reference to markets must be to safeguard public health, and everything else should be sacrificed to the accomplishment of this end.

I realize that a little time will be required to bring about the situation as contemplated, but I shall instruct the Department of the Interior to demand from all municipal officials strict compliance with the policy herein enunciated.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on appointment of laborers on municipal and barrio roads, January 29, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On appointment of Laborers on municipal and barrio roads

[Released to the Press on January 29, 1938]

The report appearing in the morning papers giving the impression that the members of the National Assembly will have the right to appoint laborers that will work on municipal and barrio roads is without foundation. The President has repeatedly stated that the matter of appointments is exclusively the function of the Executive Department, and without dereliction of duty he cannot allow this power to be exercised by any other branch or officials of other branches of the Government. The cases where the other branches of the Government are vested with the power of appointment are specifically provided in the Constitution. In the case of officials, employees, and laborers of the Bureau of Public Works, the Executive Department alone has the authority to make appointments.

The President authorized this statement to be made for the last time so that stories of this kind that may appear hereafter may be ignored.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on proposed Public Works Program, February 1, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On proposed Public Works Program

[Released to the Press on February 1, 1938]

The President's message recommending a proposed public works program will be sent to the National Assembly this afternoon.

It is understood that the program contemplates a total expenditure of about P92,000,000.

This amount is to be spent for public buildings, artesian wells, drainage works, hospitals, public dispensaries, health resorts, national and local roads, etc. For local roads, which include inter-municipal and barrio roads, the amount is P10,000,000; for national highways, about P28,000,000; and for hospitals and public dispensaries, approximately P7,000,000.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on advisability of bringing to the court of industrial relations all labor questions arising between employers and employees, February 2, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On advisability of bringing to the court of industrial relations all labor questions arising between employers and employees

[Released to the Press on February 2, 1938]

In view of rumors of impending strikes, especially in the electric light and transportation plants of the City of Manila, the President wishes to remind all concerned that the National Assembly has created a Court of Industrial Relations with powers to hear and decide questions arising between employers and employees, and that therefore grievances, if any, should be brought before this Court rather than appealed to the old method of the strike. The President wishes to point out the fact that in every strike, particularly those affecting the public utilities, there is one third party that invariably suffers, which is the public, and that this party is entitled to the protection of the Government. It should also be remembered that strikes cause losses, not only to capital but also to labor no matter how the strike ends. In view of the fact that there is a means whereby any existing wrong may be righted without recourse to the strike, the President earnestly urges laborers all over the Philippines to use this method and avoid strikes.

In order to expedite decision on cases brought before the Court of Industrial Relations, two assistants for this special tribunal will soon be appointed, and it is hoped that labor leaders will cooperate with the Government in avoiding strikes.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Strike of Laborers of the Gasoline Companies, February 4, 1938

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Strike of Laborers of the Gasoline Companies**

[Released on February 4, 1938]

The strike declared by the laborers of the gasoline companies is most unwise and untimely. It has the appearance of a deliberate defiance to my advice that differences between employers and employees be submitted to the Court of Industrial Relations.

Upon the petition of the Secretary of Labor, the questions involved in this strike have been submitted to the Court of Industrial Relations. If after the Court of Industrial Relations has rendered its decision, any of the parties should refuse to abide by it, I shall employ every legal means at the disposal of the Government to bring about an end to this situation. In the meantime and in view of the fact that the use of gasoline is essential for the transportation services of the community, I warn the strikers against any act on their part that may tend to interfere with the movement of the supply of gasoline. The police of the City of Manila and, if necessary, the Philippine Army will be used to protect the public against any hardship.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on appointment of Honorable Datu Ombra Amilbangsa as Governor of the province of Sulu, March 11, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On appointment of Honorable Datu Ombra Amilbangsa as Governor of the province of Sulu

[Released to the Press on March 11, 1938]

I have today nominated the Honorable Datu Ombra Amilbangsa governor of the Province of Sulu.

Assemblyman Ombra is a Joloano professing the Mohammedan religion, but does not practise polygamy. He is an educated man and is at present a member of the National Assembly. During the time that Assemblyman Ombra has occupied a seat in the National Assembly I have become more and more intimately acquainted with him. He is upright, honest, hard-working, a patriotic Filipino, and has the best interests of the people of Sulu at heart. He is the first Mohammedan native of his province, who is honored by an appointment to the governorship of his province, which involves, in a way, greater responsibilities than the governor of a regularly organized province.

Governor Ombra has been instructed to dissociate himself from any political or factional group in his province. I expect him to respond to the confidence which the Government has placed in him, and to govern his province wisely, justly, and firmly. Upon the success of Governor Ombra will depend the further extension of the policy of appointing native governors in the territories largely inhabited by Mohammedan Filipinos.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Press Statement: President Quezon on the “Realistic Re-examination” of American-Philippine Relations,
March 15, 1938**

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the “realistic re-examination” of American-Philippine relations

[Released on March 15, 1938]

The fate of the Filipino people cannot be placed in the hands of anybody, but must be left to the free choice and determination of the Filipinos themselves.

I have listened with very close interest to the speech of High Commissioner McNutt. I think his presentation of the facts as related to the economics of American-Philippine relations is unassailable. Although not in the High Commissioner’s eloquent and forceful language, while in America last year I made speeches referring to the relations of America and the Philippines during the last forty years in substantially the same terms.

No reasonable person who knows that the solution given in the Tydings-McDuffie Law to the Philippine question is not fully satisfactory from the point of view of the Filipinos, can find fault with the proposition of the Commissioner that a re-examination of the whole question be undertaken at once. Everybody in the Philippines knows that the Philippine Legislature, in accepting and when it accepted the Tydings-McDuffie Law, did so despite its objectionable features which were equally recognized by the Antis and the Pros; and that in finally accepting the Act by a unanimous vote of its members, the Legislature bore in mind what President Roosevelt had told the members of the mission that went to the United States to secure some amendments to the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law, that he, the President, would recommend to Congress a further study of the whole situation with a view to righting such injustices or inequalities as may exist, an assurance which presently was made good through a message which President Roosevelt sent to Congress.

It must be noted that the High Commissioner, in proposing the “realistic re-examination” of American-Philippine relations, emphatically takes the position that no permanent political and economic relationship with the Philippines shall be adopted as a policy unless the “Filipinos want it.”

It is unnecessary for me to add that when, upon my return from the United States last year, I found some divergence of opinion among Filipinos as to what policy would best safeguard our national interest, I encouraged the free discussion of the subject as I have always maintained—as I do maintain—that the fate of the Filipino people cannot be placed in the hands of anybody, but must be left to the free choice and determination of the Filipinos themselves.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Statement: President Quezon on public health and sanitation, April 22, 1938

Press Statement¹ of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On public health and sanitation

[Released to the Press, April 22, 1938]

I wish to convey to the members of the Philippine Islands Medical Association now in convention in the City of Zamboanga, my very deep interest in their convention and my sincere hope that, as in the past, their convention would redound to the advancement of medical science in our country. I congratulate the Association in general and its members in particular for the splendid work that they have been doing. I am confident that they will continue their efforts towards making the Philippines a better country to live in.

It is worthwhile repeating to the members of this Association the assurance that the Government is deeply concerned with public health and sanitation. The furnishing of safe drinking water to every community; the liberalization of the provincial hospital law to enable all provinces to establish hospitals and public dispensaries; the expansion of the Philippine General Hospital; and the construction of regional leprosaria, are some of the features of my health program.

The Philippine Islands Medical Association as representative of the medical profession can very well help the Government in its campaign to reduce our general and infant mortality, and to elevate the health and stamina of our people. While it can not be denied that money is of prime importance in the administration of public health, we should not lose sight of the fact that the quality and training of the medical practitioners and of public health officials, as well as their interest in the welfare of others, are of equal, if not of great, importance.

Footnote: ¹ Message of the President on the occasion of the annual convention of the Philippine Islands Medical Association, held at the City of Zamboanga, April 20, 1938.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on labor conflicts and their settlement, April 30, 1938

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Labor Conflicts and their Settlement**

[Released to the Press on April 30, 1938]

On the occasion of the celebration of Labor Day, I desire to address a few words to the laboring class, in general, and to the labor organizations, in particular. On two occasions when I had the pleasure of entertaining labor organizations in Malacañan, I summed up my attitude toward the workingman and the poor in these words, "My heart is with you but my mind is open and impartial."

I wish to give voice once more to these sentiments and explain their import and implication.

All my sympathies are with the men and women and their children who earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow. It is my daily hope and prayer that their lot may be improved, and that they may all enjoy the use of those commodities that have become almost prime necessities in our day. And it is my ambition which I do not consider at all impracticable, that in this beloved country of ours, so rich in natural resources, our national economy may be so readjusted that it will permit all who can and desire to work, to live a life of relative comfort. But every reasonable man should see that the task is gigantic, almost chimerical, and that it will require for its accomplishment all the patience, wisdom, fairness, sense of proportion, and a practical mind-by which I mean, of one that can counterbalance and harmonize high ideals and high purposes with realities.

This is what I mean when I said that "my heart is with you but my mind is open and impartial." In the first place in the conflict of interests between the different elements constituting the community, including capital and labor, the Government will have to take into consideration every side of each question as it affects the public as well as the parties whose rights and interests have to be adjusted. I also mean that I realize, as all must realize, that every important task, especially those that have varied and far-reaching consequences and besieged with obstacles and difficulties in their accomplishment, require time to attain fruition. In such kind of enterprises, what is important is that every forward step should be so taken that no unforeseen event may force its retracement.

The policy of my administration and of the National Assembly to give labor its due must need the intelligent and responsible cooperation of labor organizations if the Government is to be permitted to carry out its policies under most favorable circumstances. Unfortunately, I see signs that are not encouraging for it seems that there are indications of impatience on the part of labor leaders who, whether in good or in bad faith, that is to say, who, either inspired by a passionate zeal to improve the lot of the workingman or under the impulse of base purposes so as to benefit themselves from labor unrest, are agitating and counseling labor bodies to present unjust demands or to declare strikes without sufficient grounds.

Strikes have been, in the past and up to the present time, the weapon used by labor to secure recognition for its rights. At best, the strike by its very nature, will inevitably bring harm to the strikers themselves. It deprives them of their wages during the time that the strike lasts, and even when the strike is successful they suffer during the strike hardships that might have been avoided. Particularly in the Philippines, strikes are always seriously prejudicial to the strikers because there are no labor organizations in our country with funds to provide the strikers with means for their daily subsistence while the strike lasts. At the time when governments were prone to take the side of capital or they were reluctant to listen sympathetically to the claims or grievances of labor even when they were fully justified, to strike was the only recourse of labor to secure justice. Such is not the case in the Philippines now. For we have the Department of Labor primarily concerned with carrying out the policy of the Government for the protection of labor, and we have the Court of Industrial Relations empowered to decide questions arising between employers and employees. Every strike in the Philippines, therefore, that is declared before the strikers present their complaint to the Department of Labor, and if not settled there is not taken to the Court of Industrial Relations, is, for such failure

to use the means created by law to secure justice if labor is entitled to it, *prima facie* a defiance against the Government or an expression of lack of confidence in the Government. Therefore, I desire to make public that my attitude toward strikes of this nature is unsympathetic, and that if labor takes the law into its own hands as it is the case if strikes are declared without first recurring to the Department of Labor or the Court of Industrial Relations, it cannot expect sympathy from the Government and it has to face the consequences of its action. May I not then appeal to every labor leader in the Philippines, to every labor organization, to the great mass of the workingmen and women, and to the poor, of my beloved native land, that they keep faith with their Government, that they exercise the virtues of patience and restraint, and that they resort to the methods provided by law for the redress of their grievances. May I not request you, one and all, to avoid strikes, violence, and the disturbance of public order, and to bear in mind that it is only through respect for the law and a proper sense of justice, a love of justice not only for one's self but also for his neighbor, can we make of the Philippines a land of happiness and of plenty for the enjoyment of everyone of its inhabitants.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Progress, Importance and Prosperity of the Philippines, May 22, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**PROGRESS, IMPORTANCE, AND PROSPERITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

[A radio talk between General James G. Harbord and the President of the Philippines broadcast through the National Broadcasting Corporation network on Sunday, May 22, 1938, at 11.15 a. m., Manila time.]

[Released to the Press, May 23, 1938]

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT—NEW YORK ANNOUNCER.

Gen. HARBORD. Mr. President, seeing you again recalls to me the days of long ago, when I was stationed in this beautiful country as an officer in the Philippine Constabulary, and you were a rising and energetic young lawyer, and later Governor of the great Province of Tayabas.

THE PRESIDENT. I well remember those days, General Harbord. Then the Philippines was just beginning the education of the people along American lines and the development of its great resources. Since your return a week ago, you have seen something of how far we have progressed.

Gen. HARBORD. I have indeed. On our recent trip together through the southern provinces of Luzon, I was greatly impressed by the extent of the agricultural development and by the attitude of pride and confidence in their country shown by the people of all classes.

The PRESIDENT. I hope that you also noticed their attitude toward the United States. Your country, the mother country, will always be in our mind. Our people have a real feeling of gratitude and appreciation towards yours for encouraging us and helping us to develop a real American spirit of progress and independence. You have noticed that spirit, perhaps, General Harbord?

Gen HARBORD. It is the first thing that anyone coming to the Philippines does notice. I wish that that spirit and its significance for the future were better understood back home. I wish that all Americans could realize that here are fourteen millions of intelligent, energetic people, in a land where great productivity and natural resources go hand in hand with amazing beauty. They are courageous and independent, and they have had much training in the arts of both peace and war. They have a small but well-disciplined army, and speaking as one who understands something of this matter, I would say that it will be a serious question if anyone has the temerity to challenge them on their native soil.

The PRESIDENT. That fact—and it is unquestionably a fact—should mean a great deal to the United States in the future. The Philippines can supply you with every tropical product and food which you will ever need, in peace or in war. Our position between the United States and Hongkong makes this a necessary air base in the East which will always be available to you for trade or military operations.

Gen. HARBORD. That, Sir, is a fact of the utmost importance. Another thing we must not forget is that the shrinkage of the world caused by radio and aviation has brought Manila nearer to Washington than San Francisco was twenty-five years ago. It is a comforting thought that, because of our attitude toward the Philippines in the past and the intelligent administration of the country during our regime here, we shall always have a next-door neighbor

who will look on us as a favored nation and who will be able and willing to maintain that position independently and fearlessly.

The PRESIDENT. I understand that you are making a trip around the world, and that you have recently visited some countries in the Southern Hemisphere. I am greatly interested in your opinion of them, especially as they compare with the Philippines. Have they problems similar to ours?

Gen. HARBORD. I would say that the similarity of conditions, as well as problems, is not great. Only the threat of aggression is common to all of you. In that respect I would say that the Philippines is in a stronger position than either Australia or the Dutch East Indies.

The PRESIDENT. You have had a pretty good review of some of our provinces since you came, haven't you, Sir?

Gen. HARBORD. Yes, I have covered a great deal of ground by just about every modern means of transportation—automobile, train, yacht, and airplane. I have talked to high ranking officers of the United States Army and Navy, and to the commanding officers of the Philippine Army. I have heard a great deal about the possibility of aggression and the steps taken for defense, and I hold the opinion, backed also by my personal knowledge of the physical features of the country, that when the United States steps out in 1946, you will be very well able to take care of yourselves, if danger threatens.

The PRESIDENT. If ever the need arises, you will find that that is so. I remember that between our trip to the south and your trip alone to Baguio and some of the northern sections, you have covered twelve of our provinces, including the great plain of Luzon between Manila and the gold fields of Baguio.

Gen. HARBORD. That is correct. And in doing so, I have talked with hundreds of mayors and local officials and business men.

The PRESIDENT. And how did you find them—gloomy, fearful, poor, and depressed? Were they muttering about hard times, and growling about the Americans?

Gen. HARBORD. On the contrary; in every instance, Mr. President, I found them happy, prosperous, confident, and friendly. I also found a sort of jauntiness of spirit and an initiative—a desire to go ahead and get the job done, just like the average wide-awake American at home—which I didn't find in some other countries.

The PRESIDENT. I suppose, however, that you did observe other things that reminded you of the peoples you have recently visited?

Gen. HARBORD. In other matters, there are comparisons, but not similarities. Australia, for instance, is an independent Commonwealth such as yours will soon be, but its population is only half that of yours and that country has not been nearly so favored by nature as yours. In Java and the Dutch East Indies we find a dependent colony of sixty million non-Christians ruled by a nation of nine million Christians, whereas the fourteen millions in the Philippines have been Christians for nearly four centuries, and for the last forty years they have been governed by a Christian nation of ten times their number.

The PRESIDENT. Yes, General, that is a very important point. It helps us to see eye to eye with you on many matters which are vital to both our countries, and it makes friendship between us a natural, instead of a cultivated, result. I am told also that in Java the population is so large that food for the people might become a grave problem in case of an emergency, whereas in the Philippines we can grow far more than we need. This, of course, is a great protection for us but it does bring up problems of distribution of surplus, and we are very happy that the trade agreement with the United States has minimized these considerably, while at the same time it is of mutual advantage to your country.

Gen. HARBORD. And speaking of distribution, Sir, I want to compliment your Government on the splendid transportation facilities, both by highway and by rail, which I have seen on our recent long trip through twelve of your provinces.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Sir. We are very proud of our highways and our railroads, and we are going ahead very rapidly to complete a most comprehensive system of transportation. Within four years every one of the principal islands in the Archipelago will be provided with a network of circumferential and radial roads of concrete and asphalt, connecting at their terminals with ferries from one island to the other. Our railroad system has also been carefully planned to provide quick transportation between the principal cities and towns. As you understand, of course, this is greatly aiding in the development of centers of population and in opening up unused land as well as materially strengthening our national defense system.

Gen. HARBORD. The ability to transport goods and people from one place to another quickly and cheaply is one of the surest and swiftest means of making a country grow and prosper. I have noted with interest in this connection the large number of trucks and city and interurban buses in operation all over the country.

The PRESIDENT. Our people are becoming travel-minded. Perhaps in a few years there will be as many Filipinos sightseeing in America as there are foreign tourists here now.

Gen. HARBORD. I hope so, for there is nothing that makes for better understanding between nations than a liberal exchange of visitors. With Manila, such a short time away from San Francisco now by air, I hope many more Americans will come over here to enjoy the beauty and interest of this land.

The PRESIDENT. You think they will not find it hot?

Gen. HARBORD. Oh, no, I don't think so. It's hot in New York, too, you know. I have noticed in this trip that the people who live in tropical countries complain about the heat more than the visitors do. The Dutch that I knew in Java actually suffered, while I was uncomfortable only on one or two occasions. But Manila, even at this time of the year, is delightful except in the middle of the day.

The PRESIDENT. I agree with you. And you might tell your friends in America that air conditioning is almost as general here as it is in your large cities.

Gen. HARBORD. I should like to tell them many more things about Manila, so that they would understand that it is a modern, progressive city. It fronts on a magnificent bay, with mountains coming down on both sides to the narrow entrance, thirty miles away, where the island of Corregidor, considered one of the strong fortifications of the world, stands guard. Manila gives every evidence of prosperity. Is that appearance backed by facts, Mr. President?

The PRESIDENT. Indeed, it is. While prices for some of our principal products, such as sugar and copra, are not exactly as high as we would like to have them, nevertheless our people are making money and every day their standard of living is rising. There is very little unemployment, and no lack whatever of the necessities of life. As you have seen for yourself, we are a happy people; we like to laugh, and we enjoy life very much. We still have much to learn; but we can learn, and we are doing so very fast.

Gen. HARBORD. There is no doubt in either of those statements. When I see the development that has taken place in the twenty-five years since I was last here, I am inclined to believe that no people in the world have ever made such rapid progress in the assimilation and use of modern civilization. Do you attribute that in part to the growth of educational facilities in the country?

The PRESIDENT. Undoubtedly that has a great deal to do with it. Education does not have to be forced on the Filipino. He takes to it readily. He seeks it for his children. As you have seen on our journeys, each town and village has an attractive school, but our chief problem is to keep that school big enough for our growing population. Last

year we appropriated five million pesos for new school facilities, which is a large amount of money for a country of this size, but that sum will enable us to do more than keep pace with the needs of the next year.

Gen. HARBORD. What will you do then?

The PRESIDENT. We shall appropriate an additional P12,000,000 at the next session of the Assembly.

Gen. HARBORD. I was thinking of the taxes. Are they becoming a burden on the people?

The PRESIDENT. Taxes are always a burden, whether they are high or low, I'm afraid. But I know your meaning, that large amounts devoted to just one development may make taxes oppressive. However, we have a very long way to go before that can happen. Our people are the least taxed people in the world and they are taxed fairly. No one pays very much but *every* one pays *something*. That not only distributes the burden equally, but it makes each man realize that *he* is part of the Government, sharing its obligations as well as its benefits. Consequently, the Filipino takes a great interest in his government. That is very helpful in building the spirit of loyalty and solidarity among the people, a fact which you undoubtedly have observed.

Gen. HARBORD. I have observed that, and also their very evident affection for their President. The enthusiasm of the crowds that greeted you in every town and village in our trip was proof of that.

The PRESIDENT. It makes me very happy to believe that, Sir. But may I point out, General, that part of that enthusiastic greeting was also for you? The elder people have not forgotten the great services which you rendered to the Philippines, and they have told their children so often about your friendship for our country that your name is as well known among them as that of any American of our time. It also makes me happy that that is so, for we were closely associated in friendship in the old days, and I am proud that each of us has been able to lend a helping hand in some degree to this country that we both love.

Gen. HARBORD. I share that feeling very fully, Mr. President. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to talk with you this beautiful Sunday morning before an audience of American listeners, and I hope that what we have said may instill an even greater interest in the Philippines. Thank you very much, Sir.

MANILA ANNOUNCER. We return you now to America.

NEW YORK ANNOUNCER. Sign off.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Bills signed by the President, June 2, 1938

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Bills signed by the President**

[Released to the Press on June 2, 1938]

His Excellency, the President, signed today, June 2, 1938, the following National Assembly bills, entitled:

Bill No. 3277. An Act to amend section sixty-one of Commonwealth Act Numbered One, known as the National Defense Act. (To enable the President to appoint two or more alternate members of the Acceptance Boards, in addition to the five regular members thereof.)—Commonwealth Act No. 267.

Bill No. 3502. An Act to amend further section one of Act Numbered Thirty-five hundred and ninety-seven as amended. (Authority to use the Government Center Fund for the acquisition, by purchase or otherwise, of building sites and privately-owned buildings needed for governmental purposes in the City of Manila, for the construction of new public buildings, and for the improvement and extension of existing public buildings in the said city.)—Commonwealth Act No. 268.

Bill No. 3346. An Act to amend section nineteen hundred and sixty-six of the Administrative Code. (To authorize the sending through telegraphic transfers in certain telegraph offices, of the maximum amount of P5,000, and also to authorize the remittance of greater amounts by telegraphic transfers upon specific authority of the Director of Posts.)—Commonwealth Act No. 269.

Bill No. 2666. An Act to amend section twenty-one of the Administrative Code. (Specifying the officials authorized to administer oaths, so as to make the provisions of said section of the Administrative Code in conformity with the present organization of the Government.)—Commonwealth Act No. 270.

Bill No. 701. An Act to amend Act Numbered Four thousand one hundred and thirteen, entitled “An Act to prescribe certain provisions concerning tenancy contracts on land planted to sugar cane,” so as to include farm laborers, commonly called “pakiadores”.—Commonwealth Act No. 271.

Bill No. 3482. An Act to amend sections ninety-one and ninety-two of Commonwealth Act Numbered One, known as the National Defense Act. (Providing payment to every volunteer accepted by the Philippine Army for trainee instruction or to individuals undergoing training in the grade of probationary third lieutenants beyond the 5 1/2 months normal tour, the sum of P5.00 for each additional month so served.)—Commonwealth Act No. 272.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Statement: President Quezon on Bills signed by the President, June 3, 1938

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Bills signed by the President**

[Released on June 3, 1938]

His Excellency, the President, signed today, June 3, 1938, the following National Assembly bills, entitled:

Bill No. 651. Ley que castiga con mayor severidad el hurto de ganado mayor—Commonwealth Act No. 273.

Bill No. 1287. An Act penalizing the sale or disposition of imported eggs, the shells of which are not plainly marked “Imported” as herein provided.—Commonwealth Act No. 274.

Bill No. 2233. An Act to amend section twenty-two of Act Numbered Twenty-one hundred fifty-two. (To enable the Bureau of Public Works to furnish the Collector of Internal Revenue with simplified computations of the amount of power upon which rental shall be charged on hydro-electric plants in operation in the Philippines.) Commonwealth Act No. 275.

Bill No. 2279. An Act to authorize the filing in the proper court, under certain conditions, of certain claims of title to parcels of land that have been declared public land, by virtue of judicial decisions rendered within the fifteen years next preceding the approval of this Act.—Commonwealth Act No. 276.

Bill No. 3335. An Act to consider the late Hon. Mariano Buyson Lampa of Pampanga, Judge of First Instance, retired under Act Numbered Twenty-five hundred and eighty-nine, as amended.—Commonwealth Act No. 277.

Bill No. 3347. An Act to amend section nineteen hundred and forty-six of the Administrative Code. (So as to exempt periodical publications issued by, or under the auspices of, the Philippine Government or any of its branches and subdivisions, for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Commonwealth, applying for admission as second class mail matter, except those which carry advertising matter, from the requirements imposed upon private publications.)—Commonwealth Act No. 278.

Bill No. 3366. Ley que dispone la tramitación preferente de los asuntos que envuelven conflicto entre el capital y el trabajo.—Commonwealth Act No. 279.

Bill No. 3399. An Act penalizing the construction or maintenance of “cottas”.—Commonwealth Act No. 280.

Bill No. 3418. An Act to further amend section six hundred and eighty-two of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, as amended by section sixteen of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and seventy-seven, so as to extend the temporary appointment of teachers until the end of the school semester.—Commonwealth Act No. 281.

Bill No. 3519. An Act to secure the United States against loss or damage to any military or naval stores, supplies, and equipment loaned to the Commonwealth of the Philippines.—Commonwealth Act No. 282.

Bill No. 3526. An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Eighty-three known as Securities Act, by inserting section twenty-one-A, and amending section twenty-eight thereof. (By making it unlawful for any securities exchange to adopt artificial means of price control, without having first obtained the prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.)—Commonwealth Act No. 283.

Bill No. 3568. Ley fijando en dos mil pesos la indemnizacion minima en todo caso de responsabilidad civil por la muerte de una persona.—Commonwealth Act No. 284.

Bill No. 3693. An Act abolishing the Manila Harbor Board, making the necessary provisions for the administrative adjustments resulting therefrom, and appropriating fund's therefor.—Commonwealth Act No. 285.

Bill No. 3710. An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines to extend the present territorial limits of the City of Baguio.—Commonwealth Act No. 286.

Bill No. 3794. An Act to transfer to the Securities and Exchange Commission the powers, duties, and functions of the Bureau of Commerce in connection with the registration of corporations and associations and to authorize the Securities and Exchange Commission to enforce the provisions of all laws affecting such entities—Commonwealth Act No. 287.

Bill No. 3810. An Act to provide pension for veterans of the Philippine revolutions or wars.—Commonwealth Act No. 288.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Bills signed by the President, June 3, 1938

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Bills signed by the President**

[Released on June 3, 1938]

His Excellency, the President, signed today, June 3, 1938, the following National Assembly bills, entitled:

Bill No. 651. Ley que castiga con mayor severidad el hurto de ganado mayor—Commonwealth Act No. 273.

Bill No. 1287. An Act penalizing the sale or disposition of imported eggs, the shells of which are not plainly marked “Imported” as herein provided.—Commonwealth Act No. 274.

Bill No. 2233. An Act to amend section twenty-two of Act Numbered Twenty-one hundred fifty-two. (To enable the Bureau of Public Works to furnish the Collector of Internal Revenue with simplified computations of the amount of power upon which rental shall be charged on hydro-electric plants in operation in the Philippines.) Commonwealth Act No. 275.

Bill No. 2279. An Act to authorize the filing in the proper court, under certain conditions, of certain claims of title to parcels of land that have been declared public land, by virtue of judicial decisions rendered within the fifteen years next preceding the approval of this Act.—Commonwealth Act No. 276.

Bill No. 3335. An Act to consider the late Hon. Mariano Buyson Lampa of Pampanga, Judge of First Instance, retired under Act Numbered Twenty-five hundred and eighty-nine, as amended.—Commonwealth Act No. 277.

Bill No. 3347. An Act to amend section nineteen hundred and forty-six of the Administrative Code. (So as to exempt periodical publications issued by, or under the auspices of, the Philippine Government or any of its branches and subdivisions, for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Commonwealth, applying for admission as second class mail matter, except those which carry advertising matter, from the requirements imposed upon private publications.) — Commonwealth Act No. 278.

Bill No. 3366. Ley que dispone la tramitación preferente de los asuntos que envuelven conflicto entre el capital y el trabajo.—Commonwealth Act No. 279.

Bill No. 3899. An Act penalizing the construction or maintenance of “cottas”.—Commonwealth Act No. 280.

Bill No. 3418. An Act to further amend section six hundred and eighty-two of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, as amended by section sixteen of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and seventy-seven, so as to extend the temporary appointment of teachers until the end of the school semester.—Commonwealth Act No. 281.

Bill No. 3519. An Act to secure the United States against loss or damage to any military or naval stores, supplies, and equipment loaned to the Commonwealth of the Philippines.—Commonwealth Act No. 282.

Bill No. 3526. An Act to amend Commonwealth Act Numbered Eighty-three known as Securities Act, by inserting section twenty-one-A, and amending section twenty-eight thereof- (By making it unlawful for any securities exchange to adopt artificial means of price control, without having first obtained the prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.)—Commonwealth Act No. 283.

Bill No. 3568. Ley fijando en dos mil pesos la indemnización mínima en todo caso de responsabilidad civil por la muerte de una persona.—Commonwealth Act No. 284.

Bill No. 3693. An Act abolishing the Manila Harbor Board, making the necessary provisions for the administrative adjustments resulting therefrom, and appropriating fund's therefor.—Commonwealth Act No. 285.

Bill No. 3710. An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines to extend the present territorial limits of the City of Baguio.— Commonwealth Act No. 286.

Bill No. 3794. An Act to transfer to the Securities and Exchange Commission the powers, duties, and functions of the Bureau of Commerce in connection with the registration of corporations and associations and to authorize the Securities and Exchange Commission to enforce the provisions of all laws affecting such entities—Commonwealth Act No. 287.

Bill No. 3810. An Act to provide pension for veterans of the Philippine revolutions or wars.—Commonwealth Act No. 288.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon of Veto of Bill on Religious Instruction in the Public Schools, June 4, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**VETO OF BILL ON RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN THE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

[Released to the Press, June 4, 1938]

The President has vetoed Bill No. 3307 regarding religious instruction in the public schools, which was passed by the National Assembly at the last session.

The President bases his veto of the bill upon the ground that it is unconstitutional (*a*) because the title of the bill does not express its real object; (*b*) because the discretion given to an administrative official by the Constitution in the exercise of an executive function is impaired; and (*c*) because the bill attempts essentially to change the policy laid down in the existing law which has been raised to the category of a permanent national policy by virtue of section 5, Article XIII of the Constitution—a policy that can only be altered, amended or revoked through an amendment of the Constitution itself.

The President holds personally the view that religion is a power for good which not only operates for the benefit of the individual as such but also makes of him a good citizen. In vetoing the bill, however, the President takes the stand that under existing legislation the responsibility for the teaching of religion is placed exclusively upon parents and guardians, and upon the church to which the family belongs, but not upon the Government.

It is the hope of the President that religious questions will not be permitted to divide the people and cause conflicts of a serious character.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Provisional Appointment in the Regular Force of one hundred reserve officers of the line and ten reserve officers of the Medical Corps, June 13, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT IN THE REGULAR FORCE
OF ONE HUNDRED RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE
LINE AND TEN RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE
MEDICAL CORPS**

[Released to the Press, June 13, 1938]

Upon the specific recommendations of the Military Adviser and of the Chief of Staff of the Army, the President has approved the provisional appointment in the Regular Force of one hundred reserve officers of the line and ten reserve officers of the Medical Corps.

As reported by the Military Adviser and the Chief of Staff, these officers have, without exception, proved, over a considerable period of active duty training, their fitness as to character, education, and professional capacity for transfer to the Regular Force. In order, however, to furnish further test and examination of each individual so selected, the President has directed that these appointments shall be provisional only for the period of one year. At the end of the probationary year those whose full records then demonstrate their complete suitability for appointment will be permanently transferred to the Regular Force.

The number of officers recommended for transfer has been determined by the military authorities on the basis of immediate and pressing needs of the Army for permanently assigned individuals. The policy of the Government is to hold the strength of the Regular Officers' Corps at the minimum level consistent with existing demands, with the purpose of building gradually toward future strength requirements through annual graduations at the Philippine Military Academy. As one means of assuring the efficiency of the Military Academy in producing lieutenants of the necessary qualifications, it has been directed that so far as practicable only officers of reasonable maturity and experience be assigned to the faculty. In line with this policy any instructor less than twenty-five years of age will shortly be transferred to other duties.

The names of Reserve Officers designated for provisional appointment in the Regular Force follows:

LIST OF RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE LINE SELECTED FOR THE REGULAR FORCE			
<i>Major: 1. Melchor, A.</i>			
<i>Captains:</i>			
1.	Hernandez, J. A.	4.	Jimenez, N.
2.	Jaminola, P.	5.	Magtoto, A. B.
3.	Halili, D. M.	6.	Andrada, J.
<i>First Lieutenants:</i>			
1.	Domondon, A.	10.	Tanwanco, M.
2.	Ac-Ac, A.	11.	Buhay, R.
3.	Arevalo, E.	12.	Gonzales, M.
4.	Banez, E.	13.	Bautista, A. N.
5.	Reyes, J. E.	14.	Montesa, A.

6.	Martelino, L.	15.	Tuason. A.
7.	Rosal, A. Y.	16.	Roque, F. C
8.	Santos, A- M.	17.	Galvez, M. E.
9.	Medina, F.		
<i>Second Lieutenants</i>			
1.	Dayot, V.	10.	Casupang, O.
2.	Planes, M.	17.	Bernales, J.
3.	Tallow, A.	18.	Reyes, Recaredo
4.	Regis, L.	19.	Concepcion, S. I.
5.	Velasco, M.	20.	Chong, J. B.
6.	Hernando. P.	21.	Diokno. A.
7.	Mirasol, C	22.	Daza, C. C.
8.	Monzon, P.	23.	Crisostomo, V.
9.	Pollard, C	24.	Olivares, F.
10.	Abrenica, J.	25.	Atienza, R.
11.	Obana, S.	20.	Janairo
12.	Nievera, L.	27.	Licuanan, F.
13.	Hidalgo, M.	28.	Mata, B. I.
14.	Vinulan, P.	29.	Gonzalez, F.
15.	Lapus, I.	30.	Villafria, A.
LIST OF RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE LINE SELECTED FOR THE REGULAR FORCE—Continued			
<i>Second Lieutenants—Continued</i>			
31.	Montelibano, J.	51.	Mendoza, R.
32.	Alejandro, B.	52.	Castro, F. R.
33.	Barrenengoa, J.	53.	Villa-real, L.
34.	Arroyo, J. E.	54.	Jesus, S. de
35.	Uichangco, C	55.	Maniego, F.
36.	Portacio, E. M.	56.	Cruz, C. G.
37.	Talag, M. R.	57.	Rigor, C.
38.	Velasco, V.	58.	Gomez, F.
39.	Dayot, Noe	59.	Llana, L. de la
40.	Abcede, S.	60.	Fusilero, H. G.
41.	Santos, S.	61.	Intengan, R.
42.	Banzon, J.	62.	Villa, S.
43.	Capili, I.	63.	Valdez, S.
44.	Santamaria, L.	64.	Barbero, C. Z.
45.	Inciong, L.	65.	Juan, F. R.
46.	Tiongson, V. O.	66.	Fenix, A. O.
47.	Javelosa, S.	67.	Jimenez, N. T.
48.	Peralta, M.	68.	Regala, A.
49.	Sison, I.	69.	Benitez, T.
50.	Relunia, L.		
<i>Third Lieutenants</i>			

1.	Flores, F. de Leon	5.	Nicolas, F.
2.	Duque, E.	6.	Fernandez, Jose R.
3.	Hidalgo, J.	7.	Pinto, E.
4.	Blacer, C.		
MEDICAL SERVICE			
<i>Captains:</i>			
1.	Potenciano, P.	2.	Salcedo, J., Jr.
<i>First Lieutenants:</i>			
1.	Reyes, A. W.	5.	Reyes, G.
2.	Bernardo, T. V.	6.	Martinez, L. D.
3.	Ong, G. M.	7.	Katigbak, F. J.
4.	Icasiano, C. B.	8.	Santos, V. P.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Report of Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez on Endorsement of Leprosy Work in the Philippines by International Congress of Leprosy, June 14, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**REPORT OF DR. JOSÉ N. RODRIGUEZ ON ENDORSEMENT OF
LEPROSY WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES BY INTERNA-
TIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROSY**

[Released to the Press, June 14, 1938]

World recognition was accorded leprosy work in the Philippines by the International Congress of Leprosy which met at Cairo, Egypt, on May 21-27, 1938, when that body, in one of its resolutions, endorsed the present segregation methods adopted in the Philippines, according to the official report of Dr. José N. Rodriguez, lone Philippine delegate to the Congress. The Philippines also received the honor of being one of the five countries represented by speakers at the solemn inaugural ceremonies held in the presence of His Majesty, the King of Egypt, out of the 417 countries represented in the Congress.

The conference, which lasted a full week, was highly successful and brought to light several important discoveries connected with the control and treatment of leprosy. In his report, Dr. Rodriguez takes special note of two points brought up before the Congress which could be advantageously studied in the Philippines, to wit: the necessity of using high doses of the chaulmoogra preparations amounting to three or four times the usual doses now employed in the Philippines, in order to secure the best results; and the very encouraging results obtained by Dr. Adler of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem who has succeeded in transplanting human leprosy bacilli in Syrian hamsters, a species of rodents. In connection with the first point, Dr. Rodriguez says it is important to study how this can be done without harming patients afflicted with diseases, like tuberculosis, which are common here. With respect to Dr. Adler's experiments, Dr. Rodriguez was so impressed with them that he decided to go to Jerusalem to work in the laboratory of this well-known scientist. He has brought home with him some Syrian hamsters in the hope that these animals may be used in further inoculation experiments in the Philippines where there is plenty of fresh leprosy material so sadly lacking in Jerusalem. It should be recalled that in the study of the prevention of dread diseases not much progress can be made until this transmission of the bacilli to laboratory animals is accomplished successfully, making possible extensive experiments on the same.

Dr. Rodriguez was a member of several important committees of the Congress, and, as Senior Vice-President of the scientific session on March 25th, presided over that plenary session for one day. He was one of two delegates to the Congress formally invited by the International Center of Leprology at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to visit that institution and other leprosy centers in Brazil, at its expense. However, he could not accept the invitation due to lack of time.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: United States High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt and President Quezon on
Purported Summary of Complete Report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs as
Published by the Philippines Herald, June 22, 1938**

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT*

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL V. MCNUTT
UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE PHILIPPINES

AND

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**PURPORTED SUMMARY OF COMPLETE REPORT OF THE
JOINT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON PHILIPPINE
AFFAIRS AS PUBLISHED BY THE PHILIPPINES
HERALD**

[Released to the Press, June 22, 1938]

Our attention has been directed to a published account in the *Philippines Herald*, Wednesday, June 22, purporting to be a summary of the complete report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs published under the streamer headline: "COMPLETE JPCPA REPORT IS SUMMARIZED FOR FIRST TIME".

The only copies of the report of the J. P. C. P. A. available in the Philippines are in possession of the under signed and Filipino members of that Committee. Persons having copies of this report have not released the whole or any part of it, or any summary of it, for publication. What is printed as a purported summary of the complete report appears to be a reprint of material published at various times during the period the J. P. C. P. A. was in session. We wish to emphasize that it is not an official summary of the complete report. Had an official summary of the complete report been issued, those in the Philippines who hold copies of the official report would have received a copy of such summary. Such an official summary has not been written for publication.

Particular care has been exercised to guard against improper release of the report of the J. P. C. P. A. and we regret its occurrence in the Philippines.

(Sgd.) Paul V. McNutt
United States High Commissioner

(Sgd.) Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines

There are no copies of the report available in the Philippines except those we ourselves, the President and the High Commissioner have; and we are certain not only that these reports have not been seen by others than the persons who have them, but also that no information has been given by them to any one.

The account given of the contents of the report in the self-styled summary is incorrect and misleading. If the purpose in publishing the alleged summary is to draw from us some positive information as to what the report contains, it

should be remembered that only the President of the United States and the President of the Philippines can give the information and we are certain they will do so as soon as in their judgment the public interest will thereby be served.

(Sgd.) QUINTIN PAREDES

(Sgd.) JOSÉ E. ROMERO

(Sgd.) BENITO RAZÓN

*The following statement was released jointly by Honorable Quintin Paredes, Honorable Jose F. Romero, and Honorable Benito Razon on the purported summary of complete report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, as published by the *Philippines Herald*, June 22, 1938:

Having read in the *Philippines Herald's* issue of today an article purporting to be a summary of the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, we wish to state that the whole article seems to be a clever effort to piece together periodical official press releases which were made in the past, supplemented by deductions from well-known facts and by personal conclusions of the writer. This may be judged from the reference to the sugar and cordage quotas which are nothing but the approximate quotas provided in the present laws; the paragraph reciting the different chapters into which the report is supposed to be divided; and the reference to the "bearing that an advancement of the date of independence will have on the adjustment program recommended by the Committee."

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon in response to the Pastoral letter of the Archbishop and Bishops of Cebu, June 24, 1938

Pahayag ni Pangulong Manuel L. Quezon:

Bilang Tugon sa Kalatas-Pastoral ng Arsobispo at mga Obispo ng Sebú

[Ipinahayag sa mga Pahayagan bago naglakbay sa Hapon noong ika-24 ng Hunyo 1938]

Napamanghâ akó sa kalakasan ng loob ng Arsobispo Metropolitano at mga Obispo sa lalawigang eklesyástiko ng Sebú, nang sa isáng panayám episkopal, ay tumukoy at magpasya silá sa isáng suliraning náuukol sa mga tungkulin at kapangyarihang kaloob ng Saligáng-Batás sa mga pinunó at sangay ng Pámahalaan ng Komonwels.

Hindí ko inalumana ang mga sábihang, ang matataas na puno ng Simbahang Katóliko sa Pilipinas ay siyáng nangagsulsol at nasa likód ng kilusáng tungód sa ikapagtitibay ng panukalang-batás na nagpáaturó ng relihiyón sa mga páaralan sa Pilipinas. Datapwa't ang kalatas-pastoral na nilagdaán ng Arsobispo Mertropolitano at ng mga Obispo Supragáneo ng lalawigang eklesyástikong yaón, ay di-máikakait na isáng katunayang nápaharáp tayo sa hulíng pulong ng ating Batasán, at náhaharáp tayo ngayon, sa is'a sa mga lalong malulubhang kapangyarihang sukat kásuungán ng pámahalaan at bayan ng Pilipinas, na dilí ibá't ang panghihimasok ng Simbahan sa mga súliranin ng Pámahalaan. Anaki bagá, ang Arsobispo at mga Obispong sumulat ng pastoral na yaon, ay mga bulág na di-nakakákita sa mga nangyayaring sigalót tuwí-tuwinang ang mga pinunó ng Simbahan ay nag-áakalang manghimasok sa mga suliranin ng Pámahalaan. Warí bagáng ang mga matá nilá'y nakapinid sa harap ng mga nangyayari sa Méhiko at sa Espanya. Tila rin namán napawí na sa kaniláng alaala ang mga aral na sukat nang nátutuhan ng kahit sino sa atin na ring pagkakápaghimagsik laban sa Espanya, na di-máikakailáng siyang naging bunga ng pagkakapisan sa pamamahala ng mga suliranin-bayan ng kapangyarihan ng mga pinunong sibil sa Pámahalaang Kastila. Isáng mabuting pagkakataon sa ganang Simbahang Katóliko sa Pilipinas, ang pangyayaring maging ang Pangulong Punong Tagapagpaganáp at maging ang Punó ng Kágawaran ng Karunungan ng Pámahalaan natin, ay kapwá katóliko. Sa kaniláng hangád na máipagmalasakit at máiligtas sa panganiib ang buóng tibay ng kapangyarihan ng Pámahalaan, ay ináakalá niláng napaglilingkurán din namá't natátangkilik ang mga sariling kapakanán ng Simbahang Katóliko; pagkápalibhasá, gaya ng násabi na sa dakong itaas, kailán at saanman ang mga pinunó ng Simbahang Katóliko'y nanghimasok o nagbantang makialám sa mga súliranin at kapakanán ng Pámahalaan, wálang wakás na nasasapit kundí kapinsalaan din ng tinurang Simbahan.

Hindí na kailángang pagpapaalalahanan pa ang mga pinunó ng mga simbahan sa Pilipinas, na ang pagká-kahiwaláy ng Simbahan at Pámahalaan sa bayang itó ay isáng katotohanan at di-hamak na haka-haká lamang, at sa ganáng bayan namán natin, ay talagáng yaring-yari na sa loob ang pasyang papanatilihin habang panahón ang pagkakáhiwalay na iyán, bilang isá sa mga pangunang pátakaran ng pámahalaan natin. Dapat niláng málaman, samakatuwid, na anumáng pagtatangkang sumira't manghimasok sa bakurang nasásaklaw ng pámahalaan tungkol sa násabing súliranin, ay hindí mapabábayaan. Kung hangád ng mga tinurang pinunó ng mga simbahan ng igalang ng pámahalaan ang kanilang mga karapatán at bigyan silá ng lahat ng uri ng pangangálagá sa malayang paggamit ng kani-kaniláng pananampalataya, ay di-lamang kailángang magsisunód silá sa mga batas na umiiral at sa mga nábabatás na kautusan ng pámahalaan, kundí kailángan din namáng tanggapín nilá't pagpitaganan ang símulain ng pagkakáhiwaláy ng Simbahan at Pámahalaan.

Sa mga súliraning talagáng pansimbahan, ang mga obispong katóliko ay maaaring magsalitá silá o hindí sa ngalan ng mga katólikong pilipino; nguni't kung náuukol na sa pagpapahayag ng niloloob o nais ng bayang pilipino, bilang isáng kabuuang polítiko, hinggil sa anumáng kapasyahán o pamalakad ng batasán o ng pámahalaan, ang mga obispong katóliko ay lalampas na namáng totoo sa hangganan ng kaniláng mga kapangyarihan kung magsisipangáhás pang mag-salita sa ngalan ng ating bayan, lalo na't ganyang sa kanilá'y may nábibilang na iláng obispong hindí man lamang mga pilipino.

Kung háhangarin kong manghimasok sa mga súliranin ng Simbahan, kagaya ng tinatangkan gawin ng mga obispong katóliko sa mga súliranin ng Pámahalaan, másasabi ko sa Arsobispo at mga Obispo ng lalawigang eklesyástiko ng Sebú, na ang kakulangán nilá sa pagbubukás ng mga panlinggong páaralan at pálaganapán ng relihiyón katóliko, ay siyáng una-unang dapat sisihin sa umiiral na kamangmangán sa sariling relihiyón ng marami

sa kabataang nátuturingan pa namáng mga katoliko rin. Lahát na’y nakababatíd na maramnig bayan sa Pilipinas ang waláng páaralang pansimbahan, at marami ring walá isá mang paring katolikong tagapanḡasiwá nḡ pananampalataya. Tila ang ibig pang sisihin nḡ matataas na pinunó nḡ simbahang katoliko ay ang pámahalaan, dahil sa umanó’y kapabayaán nitó o kakulangán nḡ kaya sa pagpaganáp nḡ kaniláng tungkuling magturó nḡ mga simulain niláng sinásampalatayanan. Sa nábanggit na pastoral ay nátutukoy ang iláng salitâ nḡ ating Panḡinoog Hesukristo na nag-uutos sa mga obispo at mga paring ituró ang kanyang relihiyón, at ang pagkakásabi’y ganitó: “Turuan ninyo ang lahát nḡ bansa turuan siláng igalang ang lahát nḡ mga bagay na ipinag-uutos ko sa inyo.” Ang mga salitáng-diyós na iyán ay hindí iniuukol sa mga Hari sa mga Panḡulo o sa mga Kalihim nḡ Karununḡang-Bayan. Iyá’y iniuukol sa mga pinunong eklesyástiko o mga may-kapangyarihan nḡ simbahan.

Isáng buktot na pagbaka o paninirang-puri ang ibinunsod laban sa pámahalaan, dahil sa diumanó’y hindí namin ináalinsunod ang mga tadhana nḡ Saligáng-Batás hinggil sa pagpaturó nḡ relihiyón. Ang totoo ay ang katumbalikán nitó, gaya nḡ pinatútunayan nḡ pangyayaring, samantalang ang mga nagpatalâ sa mga páaralan upáng mâturuan nḡ relihiyón, nang taóng 1932-1933, ay 29,996 lamang, ang bilang na itó’y lumaki hanggang 187,089 nang 1937-1938. Sa loob nitóng hulíng taóng pampáaralan, may 817 páaralan ang nakapagtuturó nḡ relihiyón at mahigít sa kalahatí nḡ bilang nḡ mga batang diyá’y nanḡatataláng magsipag-aral ang nanḡaturuan nḡ relihiyón. Ganyan din sana ang nangyari sa mga nátitiráng ibá pang páaralan sa Pilipinas, kung ang mga pinunó nḡ mga simbahan ay nagsihinḡ rin disin nḡ karampatang pahintulot, yayamang alinmang páaralang hiningí niláng mapagturuan ay para-parang sa kanilá’y ipinagkaloob namán.

Bukód pa riyán, kung ang hanḡád ay magkaroon nḡ mga sarili’t sadyang oras na makapagturó nḡ relihiyón, na yaón bagáng di-makababawas o makaábala sa mga karaniwang gáwain o palátuntunan nḡ mga páaralan ang tinurang pagtuturo, máipagkakáloob ko ang mga araw nḡ Sábado at Linggo sa lahat nḡ mga ministro nḡ lahát nḡ relihiyóng umiiral dito sa Pilipinas, upáng siyá niláng mangágamit na sadyang araw. Kung mga Sábado at Linggo at hindí ginagamit ang mg páaralang-bayan sa mga karaniwang palátuntunan, dahil dito’y máipagagamit ang mga páaralang iyán sa mga nakakáibig at humuhinḡing makapagturó nḡ relihiyón. Ang ipinagbabawal nḡ mga umiiral na batás at nḡ Saligáng-Batás man, at akinsunod dito’y hindí ko mapahihintulutan, at hindí ko namán títulutan, kásakdalang magsama-sama sa paghingí ang lahát nḡ mga obispo at mga parí at mga samaháng katoliko, at anumán ang kaniláng gawin, ay iyáng magbigáy nḡ alinmang oras sa kapakanán nḡ pagtuturó nḡ relihiyón, kung ang oras na iyán ay kinákailangan sa mga talagáng layunín at karaniwang gáwain nḡ mga páaralang-bayan.

Matibay ang aking pananalig na ang bayang pilipino ay hindí makikinig at papayag na siyá’y makaladkad sa mga tunggália’t sígalutang ukol sa relihiyón, na siyáng sukat mangyayari kung matutulóy ang pagbabantâ nḡ mga pinunó nḡ simbahan, gaya nḡ násasaad sa kaniláng pastoral, na magpanibagong-kilos upáng mapalitán ang kasalukuyang lagáy at pamamalakd sa pagpaturó nḡ relihiyón, alinsunod sa itinátadhaná nḡ Saligang-Batás. Ang magiging kalagim-lagím na bunḡa nḡ ganyang pagtutunggálian nḡ bayan tungkol sa relihiyón, ay sukat nang makapanḡilabot sa bawa’t pilipino; sapagka’t waláng-salang itóng ating pinaka-iiróg na lupá’y magiging isáng lárangan nḡ digmang matitiná nḡ dugo nḡ atin na ring bayan.

MANUEL L. QUEZON
Panḡulo nḡ Pilipinas

MAYNILA, *Hunyo 24, 1938.*

Source: University of the Philippines Main Library

Statement: President Quezon on Pastoral Letter of the Metropolitan Archbishop and Suffragan Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu on Religious Instruction in the Philippines, June 24, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**PASTORAL LETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP
AND SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PROVINCE OF CEBU ON RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

[Released to the Press, June 24, 1938]

I am amazed at the boldness of the Metropolitan Arch bishop and Suffragan Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cebu in taking up at an episcopal conference a matter concerning the constitutional duties and prerogatives of the officials and branches of the Government of the Commonwealth.

I had so far ignored charges made to the effect that the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the Philippines had instigated and was behind the movement for the enactment of the bill regarding religious instruction in the Philippines. But the pastoral letter signed by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Cebu and the Suffragan Bishops of that ecclesiastical province is an incontrovertible evidence that we did face at the last session of the Assembly, and we do face now, one of the most menacing evils that can confront the Government and people of the Philippines; namely, the interference of the Church in the affairs of the State. It seems that the archbishop and the bishops who have written this pastoral letter are blind to the lessons of history, including our own during the Spanish regime. Being a catholic, myself, I am less interested in preserving the independence of the Church from the State than I am in preserving the independence of the Government from the Church.

It should be unnecessary to remind the ecclesiastical authorities in the Philippines that the separation of Church and State in this country is a reality and not a mere theory, and that as far as our people are concerned, it is forever settled that this separation shall be maintained as one of the cardinal tenets of our Government. The ecclesiastical authorities should realize, therefore, that any attempt on their part to interfere with matters that are within the province of the Government will not be tolerated. If the said ecclesiastical authorities desire to have the Government respect their rights and afford them every kind of protection in the free exercise of their religion, they must not only abide by the laws and the lawful orders of the Government, but they must also acknowledge and respect the principle of the separation of Church and State.

On matters purely ecclesiastical, the Catholic bishops may speak for the Filipino catholics; but when it comes to expressing the will of the Filipino people as a political entity on any matter concerning legislation or governmental measures, the Catholic bishops, some of whom are not Filipinos, are assuming too much when they pretend to speak for our people as they do in the pastoral letter when they say that the majority of the Filipino people are demanding the enactment of the bill which I have vetoed. The fact that the majority of the National Assembly voted for the said bill does not necessarily prove that the majority of the people are for it. It only proves that a majority of the members of the National Assembly were for the bill.

If I were inclined to interfere with the affairs of the Church, as the Catholic bishops are attempting to do with affairs of the State, I would tell the Archbishop and the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Cebu that the lack of Sunday schools and catechists to teach the Catholic religion is mainly responsible for the deplorable ignorance of the

Catholic youth on their own religion. Everybody knows many towns in the Philippines where parochial schools do not exist and where there is not even one single Catholic priest. It seems that the high authorities of the Catholic Church would blame the Government for the negligence or inability of the ecclesiastical authorities to perform their duty to teach the doctrine of their faith. The words of our Lord Jesus Christ cited in the pastoral letter, "Teach ye all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," are not addressed to Kings or Presidents, but to the apostles and their successors—the bishops.

A very unfair campaign has been launched against the Government, making it appear that we are not complying with the provisions of the Constitution regarding optional teaching of religious instruction. The truth is the opposite, as evidenced by the fact that while the enrollment in classes in religious instruction during the academic year 1932-1933 was only 29,996, this had increased to 187,089 in the academic year 1937-1938. During this last school year, in the 817 schools where religious instruction was given, more than one-half of the children enrolled in said schools received religious instruction.

Moreover, if the desire is to have hours exclusively devoted to religious instruction in the public schools, so that the regular school activities may not interfere with said instruction, I am placing Saturdays and Sundays at the disposal of all the ministers of all the religions existing in the Philippines. On Saturdays and Sundays, the public schools are not being used for school purposes and, therefore, they may be used for religious instruction if it is so requested. What is prohibited in the existing legislation and by the Constitution, and which, therefore, I may not allow, is that any hour needed for public school purposes be devoted to religious instruction.

It is my earnest conviction that the Filipino people will not heed the call to drag them into a religious controversy such as would result if the threat of the ecclesiastical authorities as stated in their pastoral letter, to wage anew another campaign to change the present status of optional religious instruction as provided in the Constitution, is carried out.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Ad Interim Appointments as Justices of the Court of Appeals of Honorable Pedro Tuason, Honorable Hermogenes Reyes and Honorable Marceliano Montemayor, June 24, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**AD INTERIM APPOINTMENTS AS JUSTICES OF THE COURT
OF APPEALS OF HONORABLE PEDRO TUASON, HONOR-
ABLE HERMOGENES REYES AND HONORABLE
MARCELIANO MONTEMAYOR**

[Released to the Press, June 24, 1938]

The President has today issued ad interim appointments as Justices of the Court of Appeals to the following:

Hon. Pedro Tuason, Solicitor General
Hon. Hermogenes Reyes, Judge of the Court of First
Instance of Pampanga, and Hon. Marceliano Montemayor, Judge of the Court of
First Instance of Manila.

The above appointments were made upon recommendation of the Secretary of Justice, who submitted his recommendation to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Supreme Court, and the President and Vice-President of the local councils of the American Bar Association and the Philippine Bar Association.

Justice Pedro Tuason has a long and distinguished service in the Government. Starting as Provincial Fiscal of Agusan and Surigao in 1913, he was successively promoted Provincial Fiscal of Ilocos Sur, Assistant Attorney in the Bureau of Justice, and Judge of the 15th Judicial District. His appointment to the latter position in 1922 started his career in the Judiciary. From 1922 up to his promotion to the position of Solicitor General in 1936, he served as Judge of the Court of First Instance in various provinces and, lastly, in Manila. Justice Tuason would have been appointed to the Court of Appeals upon the organization of this Court, but in view of the fact that the Government needed his services as Solicitor General, he was prevailed upon to accept this position. In justice to him, however, it is believed that his promotion to the Court of Appeals should not be further postponed. Hence, his appointment now.

Justice Hermogenes Reyes was appointed Provincial Fiscal of Bulacan in 1904. In 1907, he was elected member of the Provincial Board of Bulacan. In 1914, he was appointed Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Second Judicial District, and since then, he has been in the Judiciary. His promotion to the Court of Appeals is a just recognition of the valuable services he has rendered to the country since 1904 and in the Judiciary since 1914.

Justice Marceliano Montemayor started in the Government as law clerk. He was appointed Assistant Attorney in the Bureau of Justice in 1918, from which position he was promoted as Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Mountain Province. He was appointed Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Fourth Judicial District, comprising Manila, in 1936.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Extension of Executive Clemency to Insular Prisoners, June 25, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY TO INSULAR PRISONERS

[Released to the Press, June 25, 1938]

Before his departure last night, the President extended executive clemency to the following prisoners:

FULL PARDON

Isidro Fulgencio	Moises Villanueva
Hermenegildo Lubiano	Prisco Villanueva
Hilavio Manzano	Genesio Pating

CONDITIONAL PARDON

Aliudin (Moro)	Casimiro Manuel
Felipe A. Alvarez	Lucio Serna
Eulogio Asuncion	Gregorio Mirasol
Casimiro Bernas	Julian Otiong y de Guzman
Chin Bon Che	Esteban Petracorta
Alfredo de Leon y Navarro	Maximo Petracorta
Dimalapang (Moro)	Ruperto Petracorta
José Malone	Francisco Pañgilinan
Mariano Ducusin	Silvestre Sagisi
José Guevara	Hugo Sarmiento
José G. Ross	Arturo Soler
Simplicio Macrohon	Crispin Villanueva
Procesa Mañas y Marter	

PAROLE

Policarpo Balladares	Fernando Fernandez
Delfin Bigayan	Teofilo Galang
Vicente Bilaan	Manuel Galicia
José Bio	Victorino Gonzaga
German Deguia	Primo Guillermo
Leonardo Dionisio	Nicolas de Guzman
Nicolas Domingo	Clemente Laserna
Cesareo Durban	Mamerto Laudico
Fernando Espiritu	Felix Legaspi

PAROLE—Continued

Arcadio Lomibao	Ernesto Quilop
Rufo Manunday	Timoteo Ramos
Aurelio Mari	Salvador San José
Filemon Mendez	Modesta Sausa
Rufo Nanaman	Adriano Torre
Agustin Pahilaban	Salomon Ubante
Dionisio de la Pasion	Rogelio de la Cruz
Pedro Pasis	Vicente Villanueva
Agustin Perje	Anacleto Villena

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: Purpose of the President's trip to Japan, June 29, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

PURPOSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO JAPAN

[Released to the Press, June 29, 1938]

Although President Quezon is traveling- incognito, yet upon his arrival in Kobe he was met aboard the *S.S. Kongo Maru*, by a representative of the Foreign Office, the Chief of the American Bureau, the Governor of the Prefecture, and the Mayor of Kobe, all in cutaways and with silk hats. There were also representatives of the Japanese-Philippine Society and different Japanese ship ping and commercial concerns. Likewise the American Vice Consul was aboard to meet the President.

On arrival, the President's aide-de-camp gave out the following statement:

"President Quezon has come to Japan for the sole purpose of taking a short vacation. He will remain in this beautiful country for ten days and will visit some of your best known summer resorts. He has chosen to make his voyage on a freighter and. is returning on another freighter because he is shunning all social affairs that may interfere with his much needed rest. The party had a most enjoyable trip across. President Quezon is very glad to be in Japan once more.

"The members of the President's party are Major Hutter, United States Army, his physician; Major Nieto, Philippine Army, Aide-de-Camp; and Mr. Canceran, his stenographer. Also traveling with the President are Assemblyman Buencamino, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture of the Assembly, and Dr. Fabella, Commissioner of Health.

"President Quezon and his party will spend the day in Kobe and will proceed to Hakone tomorrow. From there he will go to Tokyo to leave his card at the Foreign Office and also at the American Embassy and then visit General Reyes at the Hospital. From Tokyo he will go to Nikko, well known summer resort, and from Nikko to a hot spring near Nagasaki where he will stay until the tenth of July, when he will sail back to Manila."

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Statement: President Quezon on transfer of officers from the Philippine Army to the Constabulary, July 5, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**TRANSFER OF OFFICERS FROM THE PHILIPPINE ARMY TO
THE CONSTABULARY**

[Released to the Press, July 5, 1938]

Upon recommendation of the Military Adviser, the Chief of Staff, and the Acting Chief of the Constabulary, the President has approved the transfer of the following officers from the Philippine Army to the Constabulary:

COLONELS

1.	E. Dosser	4.	C. Quimbo
2.	O. Fort	5.	Juan Dominguez
3.	D. Valeriano		

LIEUTENANT COLONELS

1.	Garma	4.	Natividad
2.	Gutierrez	5.	Ramos
3.	A. Baja	6.	Valdes

MAJORS

1.	A. Green	11.	C. Cruz
2.	C. Page	12.	N. Naidas
3.	M. Velasco	13.	R. Sison
4.	B. Lizardo	14.	J.P. Guido
5.	Donesa	15.	Mortera
6.	Angeles	16.	R.B. Alcala
7.	F. Tabuena	17.	Baylon
8.	S. Reyes	18.	Turingan
9.	Legaspi	19.	Coronado
10.	Borbon		

CAPTAINS

1.	P. Capadocia	7.	Roska
2.	Mansueto	8.	C. Cambaliza
3.	A. Mata	9.	D. Damian
4.	Guerrero	10.	Lamuntad

5.	Noel	11.	Alejandro
6.	C. Campo	12.	Fernandino

CAPTAINS—Continued

13.	Nunag	36.	A. Alvarado
14.	Molina	37.	G. Agudo
15.	Ante	38.	C. Mejia
16.	Barcena	39.	F. Perez
17.	F. Ferreol	40.	D. Ylagan
18.	E. Littaua	41.	Angeles
19.	Teaño	42.	Oppus
20.	P. Cortes	43.	Pangañiban
21.	Navarro	44.	G. Gabriel
22.	T. Javalera	45.	Tenerife
23.	S. Bañez	46.	P. Carandang
24.	E. Fawcett	47.	L. de Leon
25.	M. Delgado	48.	Laurente
26.	Sandico	49.	Devera
27.	C. Villanueva	50.	A. Ausejo
28.	Bartolome	51.	D. Lelis
29.	J. Esquejo	52.	de Guzman
30.	Dizon	53.	Balolong
31.	Magsino	54.	Capayas
32.	Manalo	55.	A. Hernandez
33.	P. Polotan	56.	N. Jaminola
34.	Suarez	57.	Nicolas
35.	P. Mendoza	58.	I. M. Javier

FIRST LIEUTENANTS

1.	S. Nagtalon	21.	Viduya
2.	Garcia	22.	B. Delarmente
3.	J.R. Mendoza	23.	Cuyugan
4.	Bravo	24.	N. Calicdan
5.	Abrera	25.	Ramas
6.	Brillantes	26.	Padayhag
7.	Castañeda	27.	Gantuangko
8.	E.Nave	28.	T. Torrillo
9.	N P. Lasola	29.	L. Gonzalo
10.	del Rosario	30.	Velasco
11.	Almagro	31.	Guballa
12.	C.V. Bustillo	32.	G. Ancheta
13.	Villanueva	33.	G.R. Masakayan

14.	Alviola	34.	Magsakay
15.	Negrosa	35.	Arce
16.	Torres	36.	V. Babista
17.	Villanueva	37.	V. Canuto
18.	Q. Sanglap	38.	Asis
19.	C. Torres	39.	C. Rodriguez
20.	P. Alviola	40.	Balbuena

FIRST LIEUTENANTS—Continued

41.	Garcia	57.	Bondad
42.	Carlos	58.	F. Villasias
43.	A. Chavez	59.	Capistrano
44.	Dionisio	60.	F. Magallanes
45.	F. Pastrana	61.	Acot
46.	Crame	62.	S. Pasco
47.	Venzon	63.	Javier
48.	P. Rueda	64.	B. Inovejas
49.	Tayag	65.	Pintoy
50.	N. NavarreteT. Cabrera		
51.	Castillo	67.	Policarpio
52.	R. Marohombsar	68.	C. Sabarre
53.	Rodriguez	69.	L. Laureta
54.	C. Alcantara	70.	Alviar
55.	C. Magallanes	71.	Morada
56.	Villase		

SECOND LIEUTENANTS

1.	M. Sumulong	14.	Gozun
2.	Velasquez	15.	C. Papa
3.	Prudenciado	16.	D. Villafria
4.	Inocencio	17.	R. Galvez
5.	Cawed	18.	M. Acosta
6.	Reinoso	19.	D. Garcia
7.	Rialp	20.	L. Gallardo
8.	B. Garcia	21.	M. de Castro
9.	Bautista	22.	L. Manikan
10.	V. Merritt	23.	S. Villaluz
11.	V. de Veyra	24.	Q. Arce
12.	A. Jayme	25.	de la Cruz
13.	Juban	26.	Denosta

MEDICAL SERVICE

MAJOR

1. J. G. Roxas

CAPTAINS

1.	Zagala	2.	J. Punsalang
----	--------	----	--------------

FIRST LIEUTENANTS

1.	Obieta	6.	C. Teaño (Res.)
2.	Sergio J. de Dios (Res.)	7.	N. Concepcion (Res.)
3.	P. Mesina (Res.)	8.	M. Gonzales (Res.)
4.	B. Perez (Res.)	9.	B. Mesina (Res.)
5.	T. Sayoc (Res.)	10.	D. Rodriguez (Res.)

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on alleged negotiations with the Japanese Government for the neutralization of the Philippines, July 19, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**ALLEGED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERN-
MENT FOR THE NEUTRALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES**

[Released to the Press, July 19, 1938]

On the occasion of my recent trip to Japan, one of the American press correspondents, gifted with a highly fantastic imagination, sent a dispatch to his newspaper in New York to the effect that I had made that trip for the purpose of starting negotiations with the Japanese Government looking towards the neutralization of the Philippines. The absurdity of the news should have been enough to discredit it, but unfortunately there are many people who, when reading stories printed in the newspapers, fail to use a critical judgment and accept what they read as gospel truth.

In the first place, it should be borne in mind that the Government of the United States has reserved to itself the control and supervision of the foreign affairs of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, and, therefore, any negotiation having for its object the neutralization of the Philippines will have to be conducted by the Government of the United States with such powers as the United States may choose to invite to participate in that compact. In the second place, it is a matter of common knowledge that on several occasions spokesmen from the Foreign Office of the Imperial Government of Japan have let it be known, after the enactment by Congress of the Independence Law which authorizes the President to negotiate a treaty for the neutralization of the Philippines, that Japan was ready and willing, if invited, to be one of the signatories to such a treaty of neutralization. Japanese statesmen seem unanimous in their sympathy for the idea of neutralizing the Philippines. Why then should I go to Japan to learn of something about which I had no right to inquire, and which was no longer a secret to any one? In addition, I may state that I am not one of those who entertain any misgivings as to the attitude of Japan towards the Philippines when we shall have become independent.

Our preparation for National Defense is not due to our fear that any nation has untoward designs against our independence and territorial integrity, but rather to the fact that, in any event, it is the primary function of every government to insure its own protection, and that universal military training is wholesome to the youth of the land, for it stimulates national discipline and patriotism amongst the trainees.

The security of the Philippines, in my opinion, will depend more upon the Filipino people themselves and their government than upon the designs of foreign powers. Fortunately for us we are an archipelago. We neither constitute a menace to any nation, nor can we be of help to any other in its self-defense, unless we become a part of that nation upon our own initiative and will. We are not so extraordinarily rich in natural resources as to make it worthwhile for any nation to conquer our territory at an enormous cost, and our trade can always be had through mutual concessions. There is, therefore, nothing to justify the belief that a wanton aggression against us may be contemplated by any foreign power.

This not to say, however, that we should feel perfectly free to do as we please in our relations with foreign nations without regard to their rights and the rights of their nationals living in or trading with the Philippines. The time is past when any nation can enclose itself behind bidding walls. We are in the world and must live *with* the world. We must conceive and devise, adopt and execute our national policies with a clear vision and a full consciousness of

the realities of the present state of international relationship. We must, above all, be fair and just, tolerant and neutral, so as not to give an excuse on the part of any foreign power to interfere with our affairs or to charge us with jeopardizing the rights of other nations.

I am persuaded that America in granting us independence does it upon the assumption that she has stayed in the Philippines long enough and has given the Filipinos sufficient training to permit them to assume full responsibility for their national affairs, in accordance with the rules and dictates of international justice and amity. America, once she has granted us independence, will not attempt to continue guiding our destiny, nor will she assume responsibility for our mistakes or misdeeds. Every sign points to the conclusion that when America leaves the Philippines she will do it feeling that she has discharged her duties fully and satisfactorily towards the Filipinos. Indeed, the President of the United States went to the extent of appointing, in consultation with me, a Joint Preparatory Committee, charged with the duty of studying and submitting recommendations as to future trade relations between America and the Philippines, in order the better to insure the economic stability of the latter, which, under the terms and provisions of the Independence Act, does not seem to be adequately assured. But it must be remembered that this Joint Preparatory Committee was appointed with definite instructions, that in formulating its recommendations it should have as its ultimate goal the entire elimination of all trade preferences between the two countries after a definite period of time. So, if and when the Congress of the United States shall have enacted into law the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee, the American people may feel that they have done the best that they could do under the circumstances, towards the consummation of the colonial experiment unprecedented in history, to help a foreign people attain the status and dignity of an independent nation.

When we are independent, our fate will be entirely in our hands. We look forward to the future with confidence and hope, knowing that it will be our policy to so conduct ourselves as to win the respect and goodwill of all the nations of the world.

The unfortunate conflict wherein millions of people are now engaged in this part of the globe cannot but arouse our deep sympathy for the sufferings that such conflict brings in its wake.

It is, of course, not for me to pass judgment on the issues involved, but I trust it is not out of place for me to express the hope shared by the people of my country, that this conflict may soon end, and that, when it does end, peace and mutual understanding will be permanently established among the nations of the Far East.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Proclamations signed by the President, July 19, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

PROCLAMATIONS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

[Released to the Press, July 19, 1938]

The President signed, on July 19, 1938, the following proclamations:

Proclamation No. 284. Establishing as a coal mining reservation two parcels of the public domain situated in the Municipalities of Kabasalan and Margosatubig, Province of Zamboanga.

Proclamation No. 285. Reserving for municipal building site purposes two parcels of the public domain situated in the Municipality of Tacloban, Province of Leyte, Island of Leyte, containing an aggregate area of 7,107 square meters.

Proclamation No. 286. Reserving for railroad purposes a parcel of the public domain situated in the barrio of San Antonio, Municipality of Muñoz, Province of Nueva Ecija, containing an area of 1,985 square meters.

Proclamation No. 287. Reserving for plaza purposes two parcels of the public domain situated in the Municipality of Sorsogon, Province of Sorsogon, containing an aggregate area of 1,546 square meters.

Proclamation No. 288. Reserving for cemetery purposes a parcel of the public domain situated in the barrio of San Raymundo, Municipality of Jolo, Province of Sulu, containing an area of 2,500 square meters.

Proclamation No. 289. Reserving for health resort purposes a parcel of the public domain situated in the barrio of Tagburos, Municipality of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan, containing an area of 1.5931 hectares.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Proclamations signed by the President, July 20, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

PROCLAMATIONS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

[Released to the Press, July 20, 1938]

The President signed, on July 20, 1938, the following proclamations:

Proclamation No. 291. Establishing as Caramoan National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the Philippines the parcel of the public domain situated in the municipality of Caramoan, Province of Camarines Sur, containing an approximate area of 347 hectares.

Proclamation No. 292. Establishing as Mayon Volcano National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the Philippines the parcel of land situated in the municipalities of Albay, Camalig, Guinobatan, Libog, Ligao, Malilipot, and Tabaco, Province of Albay, Island of Luzon, and revoking for this purpose Proclamation No. 341, series of 1930. The land reserved contains an approximate area of 5,458.65 hectares.

Proclamation No. 293. Establishing as Mount Isarog National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the Philippines the parcel of land situated in the municipalities of Naga, Calabanga, Tinambac, Goa, Tigaon, and Pili, Province of Camarines Sur, and revoking for this purpose Proclamation No. 840, series of 1935. The land reserved contains an area of 10,112.3478 hectares.

Proclamation No. 294. Establishing as Tila Pass National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the Philippines, the parcel of public domain situated in the Municipal Districts of Angaki, Concepcion, Sigay, and Suyoy, and Municipality of Cervantes, Province of Ilocos Sur, containing an area of 6,320 hectares.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on the Revision of the Present System of Taxation, July 22, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

REVISION OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF TAXATION

[Released to the Press, July 22, 1938]

The President met the subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee of the National Assembly at 10 o'clock this morning, and it was agreed to postpone consideration of all tax measures for the next regular session of the National Assembly.

In view of the fact that actual collections to date, as reported by the Secretary of Finance, have exceeded the estimates in the Budget, and that, therefore, there will be sufficient funds which may be appropriated for the current needs of the Bureau of Education and other urgent services of the Government, it was the consensus that more time should be taken for a thorough revision of the system of taxation of the Philippines, giving proper consideration not only to the necessity of raising adequate revenues, but also to the problem of relating fiscal proposals to the social economic policies of the Government.

The President also announced to the subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee his intention to appoint a Commission, to be composed of members of the National Assembly, officials of the Executive Departments, and private citizens, who will study this revision and make recommendations, having in mind the anticipated increase in the expenses of the Government during the next ten years as a consequence of the political and economic changes that are to come, and of the greater activities of the Government, particularly in education, sanitation, social welfare, and the maintenance of the highways to be built in accordance with the plan approved by the National Assembly at its last session. Having in view these natural increases in the expenditures of the Government, the Commission will be expected to devise a program of taxation which will provide not merely adequate revenues and a more equitable distribution of the burden but an element of stability and certainty by making it unnecessary in the future to make frequent changes in the revenue laws.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Reorganization of National Economic Council, July 22, 1938

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On reorganization of National Economic Council**

[Released to the Press on July 22, 1938]

In view of the fact that the term of the present members of the National Economic Council has expired, I have decided to make new appointments to the Council. The Council will be headed by Assemblyman Manuel Roxas of Capiz, who, in an agreement with me, will not seek reelection. This has been considered necessary by both Assemblyman Roxas and myself, because of the fact that it is not a good policy to appoint a member of the National Assembly to any Government Board or Commission which would require so much of his time and attention as to preclude him from discharging fully his duties in the Assembly. The other members of the National Economic Council will be the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor, who are the three heads of Departments of the Government directly concerned with the national economy, particularly with the industrial, commercial, and agricultural development of the country; the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Philippine National Bank; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Development Company; the Chairman of the National Transportation Board; the President and Manager of the Manila Railroad Company; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Rice and Corn Corporation; the Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines; Rafael Alunan, formerly Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Secretary of Finance; and Miguel Unson, formerly Secretary of Finance and until recently Chairman of the Government Survey Board.

It will be seen that I have appointed to this Council, not only the heads of the Departments directly responsible for those governmental activities that have to do with the national economy, but also the heads of the Government organizations which are engaged in activities dealing with agriculture, credit, industry, and transportation. I did not consider it convenient to appoint at this time representatives of private interests, because the membership of the National Economic Council is limited to fifteen, thus making it impossible for me to have every private interest or element of the community represented in the Council. To avoid, therefore, any appearance of discrimination against any one interest or class of the community, I have adopted the policy of not appointing any special representative of such elements. This, however, will not preclude the National Economic Council from seeking from time to time the advice of such persons, either as individuals or in their capacity as representatives of the particular activity in which they are engaged, and in this manner they may offer suggestions or make studies and otherwise take part in the investigations and deliberations of the Council. It is my understanding Chairman Roxas will do this.

The names of the members of the National Economic Council, as constituted, are as follows:

Hon. MANUEL ROXAS, Member, National Assembly, Chairman;

Hon. ANTONIO DE LAS ALAS, in his capacity as Secretary of Finance, Member;

Hon. EULOGIO RODRIGUEZ, in his capacity as Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, Member;

Hon. RAMON TORRES, in his capacity as Secretary of Labor, Member;

Hon. JOSÉ YULO, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philippine National Bank, Member;

Hon. ANTONIO DE LAS ALAS, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Development Co., Member;

Hon. MARIANO J. CUENCO, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Transportation Board, Member;

Mr. JOSÉ PAEZ, in his capacity as President, Manila Railroad Co., Member;

Hon. VICENTE SINGSON ENCARNACION, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Rice and Corn Corporation, Member;

Dr. BIENVENIDO GONZALES, in his capacity as Dean of the College of Agriculture, U. P., Member;

Hon. RAFAEL R. ALUNAN, in his capacity as Philippine Sugar Administrator, Member;

Hon. MIGUEL UNSON, former Chairman, Government Survey Board, Member.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on Appointment of Honorable Sixto dela Costa as Judge of First Instance of
Manila, August 1, 1938 PRESS STATEMENT**

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPOINTMENT OF HONORABLE SIXTO DE LA COSTA AS
JUDGE OF FIRST INSTANCE OF MANILA**

[Released to the Press, August 1, 1938]

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Justice, I have today submitted to the Commission on Appointments, for confirmation, the appointment of Honorable Sixto de la Costa to fill the vacancy caused by the disapproval of the *ad interim* appointment of former Judge Zandueta. This course has been decided upon after due consideration of the requirements of the judicial service which have been unduly hampered by the continued existence of this vacancy since last May, due to the pendency of the *certiorari* proceedings before the Supreme Court, in deference to which it was deemed only proper not to take any action that might be interpreted as interfering with the judicial determination of the pretended title of former Judge Zandueta to his office. The injection of many unnecessary incidents in the case, however, which were finally disposed of by the Supreme Court, has so delayed the consideration of said case, that the interest of the service cannot be sacrificed any longer, especially as it is plainly admitted by former Judge Zandueta himself that the principal question at issue can better and more properly be determined after the appointment of his successor, through the institution of *quo warranto* proceedings.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Reorganization of the Provincial and Municipal Police Forces, August 3, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**REORGANIZATION OF THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL
POLICE FORCES**

[Released to the Press, August 3, 1938]

The reorganization of provincial and municipal police forces, as embodied in Executive Order No. 156, is another step which the Government is taking in line with the policy enunciated by me soon after my assumption of office, that under my administration there will be more government and less politics.

One of the greatest handicaps with which democratic governments have been burdened in the past is politics in government. Political parties are indispensable to the democratic system; and political parties, to accomplish one of their purposes, which is to elect candidates to office, have had to create party organizations. These party organizations have invariably attempted, and in many cases have succeeded, in interfering with purely governmental functions. Whenever governments have been run by party organizations, the interest of the party has been placed above the public interest. In such cases the result has been governmental inefficiency, dishonesty, injustice, and all sorts of abuses. When these evils have reached, as in certain countries they did reach, a point where they became intolerable, the democratic system itself has been discredited in the eyes of the people, who came to believe that said evils were essentially and inevitably a vice inherent in the system. Hence the people finally substituted autocracy for democracy. It is my sincere opinion that in the fight now raging between fascism and democracy, unless democracy finds a way of separating government from politics and makes it its business to give the people an efficient, effective, and just government, fascism will be successful.

If all believers in and lovers of democracy, whether in government or out of government, want to save democracy, they must unite in doing away with the evils of politics in democratic governments.

In the past there has been in the Philippines plenty of politics in government, although, to our credit, not so much as in other democratic countries. Nonetheless there has been enough politics in government to make the people believe that the whole government was infested with politics. Since the establishment of the Commonwealth, I have taken steps in looking toward the complete divorce of government from politics. My first Executive Order, outside of the one requiring all officials and armed forces of the Government to take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution and of allegiance to the United States, was the assumption on my part of the direct command of the Philippine Constabulary, which at that time was under the Department of the Interior, in accordance with the existing law. The Secretary of the Interior then was the Honorable Teofilo Sison, now Justice of the Court of Appeals. The whole country is witness to the fact that Mr. Justice Sison, as Secretary of the Interior, never used the Constabulary for any political purpose. In fact the service rendered by Secretary Sison in the Department of the Interior was so free from partiality in the face of political exigencies and demands that, in recognition of his unyielding sense of justice, I appointed him to the Court of Appeals. But I took away from Secretary Sison the command of the Constabulary despite the fact that he had not given the slightest ground for this action simply because the Department of the Interior was looked upon, as it is looked upon today, by the people as the one political department of the Government.

The action taken was for the purpose of impressing the people that I was determined to have the Constabulary absolutely free from any political influence.

Following this step, at a later date, I placed the provincial and municipal treasurers who were under the Department of the Interior, under the Department of Finance, which is admittedly a purely financial office.

The issuance of Executive Order No. 156 is the latest step leading to the same objective. Under the Act, which the National Assembly has recently approved, converting the Philippine Constabulary into the National Police and returning the local police to their former status, insofar as the ordinary extent of their duties for law enforcement is concerned, I am considering to place the supervision of the provincial and municipal police, as well as the Constabulary, under the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice is vested with the duty of law enforcement and prosecution of violators of the law, and therefore it is right and proper that the agencies of the Government created to enforce the law and prosecute its violators should be placed under this Department. Just as the people have looked upon the Department of the Interior as the political department of the Government, so have they looked upon the Department of Justice as the one nonpolitical department of the Government. In fact, it is well known that in the selection of Secretaries of Justice there have been no political considerations. Former Chief Justice Victorino Mapa and the present Justice José Abad Santos had been Secretaries of Justice. Moreover, the provincial fiscals are now under the Department of Justice; but the provincial fiscals can do very little in prosecuting criminals without the help of the Constabulary and the local police, and until all these agencies have been placed under one department we shall face the same difficulties that we are now facing in the enforcement of the law and the prosecution of its violators.

So the steps that I have taken in taking away from the Department of the Interior those governmental agencies which should be entirely divorced from any consideration of politics, have been taken not because of lack of confidence in the Secretaries concerned, nor because I had reason to believe that they were using those agencies for political purposes, but because I wanted to take positive action showing the people that we are divorcing from politics those governmental functions which should have absolutely nothing to do with politics. No members of my Cabinet have deserved my confidence more than ex-Secretary Teofilo Sison and Secretary Elpidio Quirino.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on the Creation of the National Sugar Board, August 17, 1938

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Creation of the National Sugar Board**

[Released to the Press, August 17, 1938]

In view of the inability of the National Assembly to consider the proposed measure for the stabilization and the readjustment of the sugar industry on account of lack of time, I have today created the National Sugar Board for the purpose of carrying out, in part, the objectives of the said measure.

It is regretted that in spite of repeated remonstrances of the Administration against many of the manifest injustices suffered by certain elements of the industry under present conditions, especially in regard to laborers in tin sugarcane fields, there has been a lack of interest on the part of those responsible for such a situation to correct such a state of affairs. The Administration, therefore, found it necessary to take the initiative in the matter, and proposed the enactment of a measure which was expected to solve the problems confronting the industry.

As, at any rate, the solution of the problems pointed out in my message to the National Assembly, dated August 12, 1938, requires a complete survey of the sugar industry by a competent body representing the various interests in the industry, the creation of a National Sugar Board to undertake that survey has been decided upon. It is hoped that upon the creation of this body, the component units of the industry will voluntarily take the necessary action to correct any unfairness in the relationship now existing among them, so that the industry as a whole may be placed in a position to cope with the graver problems ahead of it and at the same time assist this Government in its efforts to solve the social problems that now confront the country.

In line with the policy of the measure proposed by me for enactment by the National Assembly, I have already approved and authorized the plan submitted by the Board of Directors of the Binalbagan Estate, Incorporated, the only operator of a sugar-producing mill under government control, to set aside, from year to year, from the proceeds of the share in the sugar manufactured by it, an amount equivalent to 5 per cent of its gross production, for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of farm laborers in the mill district in which it is conducting its business. No provision is necessary for the amelioration of planters, because they are now receiving a 60 per cent participation in the sugar manufactured, and any relief that they may need should come from the landowners, in those cases where the lands upon which they are working are merely held by them under lease.

It is expected that the creation of the National Sugar Board, with the power of conciliation with which it is invested, will initiate the process which will eventually lead to the solution of the problems facing the sugar industry.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Bills signed by the President, August 23, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

BILLS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

[Released to the Press, August 23, 1938]

The following bills approved by the National Assembly were signed by the President on August 23, 1938:

- 1. Bill No. 3908.* Appropriating P4,800,000 from the Excise Tax received from the Government of the United States to reimburse the amount appropriated under Act No. 3932 from funds under Act No. 2940, for the construction of irrigation systems.—Commonwealth Act No. 369.
- 2. Bill No. 3909.* Considering the late Hon. Pedro Ma. Sison of Pangasinan, Judge of First Instance, retired, and providing for the payment of a gratuity to his widow.—Commonwealth Act No. 370.
- 3. Bill No. 3911.* Granting compensation to the widow or legitimate children under 21 years of age of the late Lieutenant-Colonel James B. Ord of the United States Army.—Commonwealth Act No. 371.
- 4. Bill No. 3916.* Allowing horses that have already run in previous sweepstakes to also run for races of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society.—Commonwealth Act No. 372.
- 5. Bill No. 3928.* Changing the official fiscal year from the period January 1st to December 31st of the calendar year to the period from July 1st of each calendar year to June 30th of the calendar year immediately following.—Commonwealth Act No. 373.
- 6. Bill No. 3939.* Amending the Budget Act so as to increase from not more than P12 per day nor more than P300 per month, to not more than P20 per day nor more than P500 per month, the limitation in the rate of compensation which may be given to an officer or employee whose salary, not being fixed by law, is paid from any lump sum appropriation or from any special, bond, trust, revolving, or other fund; and to clarify the scope of the provisions regarding the preparation of special budgets for lump sum appropriations, special, bond, trust, revolving or other funds.—Commonwealth Act No. 374.
- 7. Bill No. 3941.* Increasing the appropriation intended to replace the loss of revenue of the local governments as a result of the abolition of the cedula tax from P5,000,000 to P5,950,000 and changing the basis of distribution from the average of the yearly collections during the years 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, and 1937 to the collections actually realized in 1937.—Commonwealth Act No. 375.
- 8. Bill No. 3942.* Making the appropriation of the Philippines Historical Committee available for expenditure beginning on the date of the approval of the 1939 Appropriation Act.—Commonwealth Act No. 376.
- 9. Bill No. 3950.* Amending certain items of Commonwealth Act No. 67, known as the Public Works Act of 1937.—Commonwealth No. 377.
- 10. Bill No. 3965.* Authorizing the President of the Philippines to enter into negotiations with owners of landed estates in the Philippines for the purpose of leasing the same to bona fide occupants or qualified persons and appropriating P1,500,000 for the purpose.—Commonwealth Act No. 378.

11. Bill No. 3967. Requiring the branding and registration of large animals imported into the Philippines and prescribing penalties for violation of the same.— Commonwealth Act No. 379.

12. Bill No. 3974. Requiring the manager or person in charge of any sweepstake, lottery or other similar scheme for the distribution of prizes, authorized to be conducted by the National Government or by any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, to deduct the income tax due from winners of the prizes and to pay the amount so deducted to the Collector of Internal Revenue.—Commonwealth Act No. 380.

13. Bill No. 3975 Providing for the support of primary and intermediate education.—Commonwealth Act No. 381.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Labor Terrorism and Social Justice, August 27, 1938 PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

LABOR TERRORISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

[Released to the Press, August 27, 1938]

I wish to congratulate you on the occasion of the celebration of your convention representing the antiradical elements of Philippine labor. I am not against any philosophy that would preach any social or economic doctrine. But I am against, uncompromisingly against, any and all individuals or groups of individuals that would pit one class of society against another, or would seek to promote and attain their selfish ends through acts of violence or would try to cajole the people into subservience through terrorism. Nothing can do more harm to the cause of Labor than the blind schemes of self-seeking radicals. In fact harm has already been done in the mounting opinion that the adoption of pro-labor measures would only serve to pamper labor. I need not mention the harm done to business and to the public in the interruption of the normal functioning of industry and the public services in some instances caused by unnecessary strikes, and the deterring effect of such uncalled for industrial strife among the investors. I want, therefore, to give labor this warning: The Government has formulated a program of social justice and is determined to carry it out. But social justice means justice for all, laborers and employers, the poor and the rich, alike. Over and above the interest of any class or group, is the interest of the people: and in the upholding of the supremacy of public interest there will be no hesitation and no compromise. I shall use all the power in my hand towards this end, in the firm belief that in doing so, I am keeping faith with democratic ideals and institutions and promoting the orderly development of our national life, for the benefit of all, most especially of the laboring masses themselves.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Bills signed by the President, September 5, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

BILLS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

[Released to the Press, September 5, 1938]

Bills signed by the President on September 5, 1938:

- 1. Bill No. 3724.* Adopting in its original authentic form the Philippine National Hymn as composed by its author, Julian Felipe, and appropriating funds for its preparation, printing, and free distribution.—Commonwealth Act No. 382.
- 2. Bill No. 3757.* Penalizing the throwing into the rivers of garbage and other waste matter which may cause the rising of the beds of rivers or the artificial formation of alluviums.—Commonwealth Act No. 383.
- 3. Bill No. 3766.* Amending the charter of the Metropolitan Water District so as to secure more efficiency and economy in the administration of said District and to eliminate certain difficulties in the way of improving the water and sewer service.—Commonwealth Act No. 384.
- 4. Bill No. 3776.* Amending certain provisions of the National Defense Act so as to effectively carry out the purposes of national defense.—Commonwealth Act No. 385.
- 5. Bill No. 3805.* Granting to the Philippine Press Wireless, Inc., a franchise to construct, maintain, and operate in the Philippines stations for the reception and transmission of wireless long distance messages, pictures, and other matters pertaining to the press.—Commonwealth Act No. 386.
- 6. Bill No. 3868.* Granting to the United Press Association a franchise to construct, maintain, and operate in the Philippines stations for the reception and transmission of wireless long distance messages, pictures, and other matters pertaining to the press.—Commonwealth Act No. 387.
- 7. Bill No. 3870.* Appropriating funds to carry out the purposes of Commonwealth Act No. 325 in 1939 in connection with the audit of books and accounts of public services.—Commonwealth Act No. 388.
- 8. Bill No. 3888.* Authorizing the City of Davao to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds to construct the necessary sewer facilities and other permanent improvements in said city and authorizing also a National Government bond issue secured by said city bonds.—Commonwealth Act No. 389.
- 9. Bill No. 3906.* Amending certain items of the Public Works Act for 1939.—Commonwealth Act No. 390.
- 10. Bill No. 3920.* Granting to the National Loan and Investment Board, in addition to its present powers, the power to authorize the payment of brokerage fees to licensed brokers for the sale of assets acquired and authorizing a committee or committees composed of members of the Board or its chairman, to perform in its behalf, place and stead, subject to such restrictions or limitations as the Board may impose, any of the powers and duties of the said Board.—Commonwealth Act No. 391.
- 11. Bill No. 3940.* Authorizing the use of a portion of the income from the operation and maintenance of the arrastre service of the Port of Manila for the payment of the necessary operating expenses of the said service and for the purchase of furniture and equipment needed by the same.—Commonwealth Act No. 392.

12. Bill No. 3945. Authorizing the erection of a Commonwealth Triumphal Arch in the City of Manila to commemorate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.—Commonwealth Act No. 393.

13. Bill No. 3961. Amending certain sections of the Administrative Code regarding the Philippine Postal Savings Bank, so as to clarify the provisions of said sections.—Commonwealth Act No. 394.

14. Bill No. 3971. Amending a certain item of the appropriation of the National Library in the 1938 Appropriation Act, so as to permit the said office to use the unexpended balance of any of the items of its appropriation in meeting its forced savings as required by the General Appropriation Act.—Commonwealth Act No. 395.

15. Bill No. 3978. Providing for the levying of special assessments to cover the cost of the construction, improvement or repair of national roads within the City of Manila.—Commonwealth Act No. 396.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on Proclamations signed by the President, September 5, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

PROCLAMATIONS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

[Released to the Press, September 5, 1938]

The President signed, on September 5, 1938, the following proclamations:

Proclamation No. 316. Designating the third Friday of October of each year as National Child Health Day.

Proclamation No. 317. Reserving for post-office site purposes a parcel of the public domain situated in the City of Cebu, containing an area of 4,206 square meters.

Proclamation No. 318. Reserving for the exclusive use of non-Christians two parcels of the public domain situated in the barrios of Damulog and Kapot, Municipality of Orion, Province of Bataan, containing an aggregate area of 30.9122 hectares.

Proclamation No. 319. Reserving for military purposes (training camp site) a parcel of the public domain situated in the barrio of Lagaue, Municipality of Burnay, Subprovince of Ifugao, Mountain Province, containing an area of 16.0489 hectares.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on the Price of Rice Set by the Board of Directors of the NARIC, September 6, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

PRICE OF RICE SET BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NARIC

[Released to the Press, September 6, 1938]

I have considered the report submitted by the committee created by the National Economic Council to investigate the causes of the prevailing price of rice, and I have discussed this report with the National Economic Council.

According to the report of the Committee, the prevailing price of rice is not exorbitant, and it appears that the NARIC has good reasons for setting the cost of rice at the price at which the NARIC is now selling it. I have come to the conclusion that I would not be justified in interfering with the decision of the Board of Directors of the NARIC in this matter, and I do not intend to do so. I am satisfied that the Board has a very difficult problem at hand; that it has been carrying out its duties in accordance with the purpose of the executive order which created this Company; and that it deserves not only the support of the Government but also the recognition equally of producers and consumers for the work that it has done. This matter, as far as I am concerned, is settled, and I feel that the Board of Directors of the NARIC should be allowed to continue managing the affairs of the Corporation without interference on my part, unless it can be shown that it has abused its discretion. No evidence to this effect has been submitted to me.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on the Selection of Officers of the National Assembly, September 8, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

SELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

[Released to the Press, September 8, 1938]

My attention has been called to recent news items to the effect that I have my candidate for the speakership of the National Assembly. The selection of officers of the National Assembly is exclusively the privilege and within the power of the Assembly. The President of the Philippines has nothing to do with it.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on the Achievements of the Late Cecilio Apostol, September 9, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE CECILIO APOSTOL

[Released to the Press, September 9, 1938]

The death of Cecilio Apostol leaves a void in our world of letters which will be hard to fill. He was one of the foremost literary figures of his time recognized not only here but also abroad. Indeed, it can be said that with him Spanish literature reached its highest achievement in the Philippines, thus making it possible for this country to play its part in the glorification of a great cultural heritage.

Apostol sang of the glories of his race in epic lines of unexampled beauty.

I wish to commend to all students of literature in this country, especially to the English-speaking ones, the writings of Cecilio Apostol, not only for the precision of his technique as our undisputed master of Spanish, but also for the wealth of patriotic inspiration that they impart to us all. And to the youth of the land, let me offer the simple ways and inimitable modesty of this truly great son of the Filipino race.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on bids for the Development of Gas- and Petroleum-bearing Properties and Resources of the Commonwealth, September 15, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

BIDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GAS- AND PETROLEUM-BEARING PROPERTIES AND RESOURCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

[Released to the Press, September 15, 1938]

Sealed proposals plainly marked "Independent Contractor's Proposals for the Development of Gas- and Petroleum-Bearing Properties and Resources of the Commonwealth," will be received at the Office of the President of the Philippines, for the furnishing of all the materials, labor, and plant required for the prospecting, exploitation, and development of the gas- and petroleum-bearing properties and resources of the Commonwealth, and the processing and treatment of the gas and oil so produced; *Provided*, That such bids shall be open only to citizens of the Philippines or of the United States or corporations organized under the laws of the Philippines or of the United States or any state thereof.

Instructions to bidders, general conditions, and specifications are available for issue at the Office above named to prospective bidders, who should file a satisfactory confidential statement showing experience, technical personnel, plant, and equipment for the work to be undertaken, in addition to resources of not less than five million pesos (P5,000,000) immediately available for the work.

This advertisement is to be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and bids may be submitted until December 1, 1938, at 12 o'clock noon, when bids will be opened at the Office above named in the presence of attending bidders.

Attention is invited to the provisions of such laws as are applicable to all contractors on Government work.

All bids must be accompanied by a cash or certified check in the sum of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) conditioned that the bidder will enter into an agreement with the Government to fulfill the terms thereof if the bid is accepted.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Commonwealth Government.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Bills allowed to become Laws without the President's signature, September 15, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**BILLS ALLOWED TO BECOME LAWS WITHOUT THE
PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE**

[Released to the Press, September 15, 1938]

Bills that became laws without the signature of His Excellency, the President, on September 15, 1938:

- 1. Bill No. 2541.* Fixing the salaries of the Mayor, City Treasurer, and the City Auditor of the City of Baguio at P7,200, P5,400, and P4,500 per annum, respectively.—Commonwealth Act No. 410.
- 2. Bill No. 3659.* Reducing the specific tax on beer, lager beer, ale, porter, and other fermented liquors (except tuba, basi, tapuy, and similar domestic liquors) from P0.12 ½ to P0.10 on each liter of volume capacity.—Commonwealth Act No. 411.
- 3. Bill No. 3881.* Authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce to purchase at a price not in excess of what the survey would have cost if the Government itself executed the same, the collectible fees of the corporations which undertook cadastral surveys under Act No. 3327, due from landowners.—Commonwealth Act No. 412.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement of President Quezon on the delay in the Organization of the Abaca Corporation, September 15, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

DELAY IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ABACA CORPORATION

[Released to the Press, September 15, 1938]

Assemblyman Oppus of Leyte came to see the President today and urged that immediate steps be taken to relieve the deplorable condition of the hemp regions in line with the purposes of the law which has been passed by the National Assembly. Assemblyman Oppus submitted to the President a letter from Mr. Lorenzo Escaño, a prominent businessman of the Provinces of Leyte and Cebu, and the President has referred the letter to the National Development Company. The President told Assemblyman Oppus that the National Development Company had been instructed to organize the corporation that will carry out the policies of the law enacted by the Assembly, and that the reason why the corporation so far has not been actually organized and has not started to function is the designation of former Governor Locsin of Albay by the National Development Company to first make a study and submit a report as to the best means of helping the hemp industry.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Larger Free Quota of refined sugar for exportation to U. S., October 7, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**LARGER FREE QUOTA OF REFINED SUGAR FOR
EXPORTATION TO U. S.**

[Released to the Press, October 7, 1938]

The news item appearing in one of this morning's papers to the effect that negotiations are now being carried on between the United States Government and the Government of the Commonwealth, through the United States High Commissioner, with a view to securing a larger free quota of refined sugar for exportation to the United States, is absolutely groundless. The Government of the Commonwealth is not seeking an increase in the amount of refined sugar that may be exported to the United States, free of duty. It is not even asking for an increase in the quota of raw sugar exported to the United States. The Government of the Commonwealth is satisfied with the present quotas both for raw and refined sugar.

The purchase of two sugar refineries by the National Development Company has been made in order to protect producers and consumers from unfair practices by dealers and speculators operating in the domestic market, and to assist in the readjustment of the sugar industry. Moreover, the owners of these refineries wanted to dispose of their property under terms and conditions which the National Development Company believed offered an opportunity for a profitable investment. It has not been definitely decided, however, whether the National Development Company will continue to operate these refineries or dispose of them to private parties under conditions which will adequately safeguard the interest of both the Government and the sugar industry without loss. This question will be decided later and, meanwhile, the Government will consider any reasonable offer for these properties.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Purchase of the Diliman Estate and another hacienda, October 8, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**PURCHASE OF THE DILIMAN ESTATE AND ANOTHER
HACIENDA**

[Released to the Press, October 8, 1938]

The news item appearing in yesterday's afternoon newspapers to the effect that the Government had purchased two large haciendas, one for the University of the Philippines and the other for a subdivision project for the benefit of the employees of the Government, is not entirely correct.

One of these haciendas, comprising about 600 hectares, is now owned by the Philippine National Bank. It was acquired by the Bank in payment of an outstanding debt. Should the Government finally decide to authorize the transfer of the University of the Philippines, this land is considered one of the most desirable and convenient locations by officials of the University who are now studying this question. Final decision lies with the National Assembly and the President, and with the Board of Regents of the University.

The other hacienda is the Diliman Estate belonging to the Tuason family. It comprises about 1,600 hectares and is situated within a few hundred meters from Calle España.

One of the projects that are closest to the heart of the President is the improvement of the living conditions of the laborers and low-salaried employees, be they employed by the Government or by private concerns. The Government believes that it owes a duty to this class of its citizenry to help them live under wholesome and healthy surroundings, at a cost which shall be within their income. Proper home atmosphere is essential for the poor as well as for the rich, particularly for the children. Social welfare can only be built on decent homes.

All bids must be accompanied by a cash or certified check in the sum of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) conditioned that the bidder will enter into an agreement with the Government to fulfill the terms thereof if the bid is accepted.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Commonwealth Government.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Decision on the Administrative Charges filed against Undersecretary Gomez of Finance, October 10, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**DECISION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES FILED
AGAINST UNDERSECRETARY GOMEZ OF FINANCE**

[Released to the Press, October 10, 1938]

Judge Enage, who is making preliminary inquiries on the charges preferred against Undersecretary Gomez, of the Department of Finance, has made the report that the news published in the afternoon papers today advancing his decision on the case, is not correct. Judge Enage has not yet reported his findings to the President and nothing, therefore, can be advanced regarding this case. Whether Undersecretary Gomez will be exonerated or not from the charges filed against him is a matter for the President to decide.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Compensation of the Commonwealth Military Adviser, October 10, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**COMPENSATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH MILITARY
ADVISER**

[Released to the Press, October 10, 1938]

The figures given by Mr. José Topacio Nueno in his statement to the press after the Popular Front-Young Philippines meeting in Tondo last night, regarding the salary paid General Douglas MacArthur, military adviser to the Government, are entirely incorrect. As a matter of fact, General MacArthur's salary is considerably less than that of an officer of his rank in the British Army. It is much less than what is reported to have been paid military advisers employed by other countries, such as China and Bolivia.

The salary of the military adviser was fixed by the Commonwealth Government, General MacArthur having offered to serve in this position without pay if necessary.

The rates of compensation paid technical experts of the Government are much less than those paid to similar experts employed in business enterprises in the United States.

The Government does not wish to publish the full details regarding these salaries in deference to those gentlemen who are thus employed, who are certainly entitled to the same privacy in such matters as is customary in commercial life, the positions not being permanent Government posts but temporary and entirely professional.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on further postponement of Census Day, October 11, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF CENSUS DAY

[Released to the Press, October 11, 1938]

Census Day, set for November 15, 1938, has been postponed by His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, to January 1, 1939.

The President has decided that Census Day be further postponed in order that the tremendous task of collecting data on the social, economic, cultural, and other phases of the life of the people of the Philippines, may be completely removed from all political influence and in order to prevent the appointment of prospective census supervisors and enumerators from having any effect on the forthcoming elections.

As January 1, 1939, will be almost two months after the elections, its designation as Census Day will give the Commission of the Census more time to consider the appointment of the best qualified persons available for the positions of census supervisors and enumerators. Ample time will also be afforded for the training of census supervisors and enumerators in order to acquaint them with their duties.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Designation of the Vice-President as special representative of the President in the United States, October 15, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On Designation of the Vice President as special representative of the President in the United States

[Released to the Press, October 15, 1938]

I am sending the Vice-President to the United States as my special representative to present the views of the Government of the Commonwealth regarding contemplated legislation covering the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee. The Resident Commissioner is, of course, the representative of this Government in its relations with the Government of the United States, and the Vice-President is not going to perform those duties, but his activities will be specially devoted to that one task and others which relate to the functions of the Department of Public Instruction. The Resident Commissioner, who is informed of the mission which I have given to the Vice-President as my special envoy, will naturally cooperate with the Vice-President.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on appointment of Brigadier General Guillermo B. Francisco as Chief of Constabulary, October 17, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL GUILLERMO B.
FRANCISCO AS CHIEF OF CONSTABULARY**

[Released to the Press, October 17, 1938]

In recognition of his excellent service in the Constabulary as well as in the Philippine Army during his command of Camp Murphy, I have appointed Brigadier General Guillermo B. Francisco Chief of Constabulary. Under the existing laws, while the officers and men of the Constabulary possess the same status as the officers and men of the Army so that by order of the Commander-in-Chief they are interchangeable, the Constabulary, however, is the national police force vested with police powers, and as such national police force, is an organization entirely separate from and independent of the Army. The Chief of Constabulary is directly under the President of the Philippines and is responsible to no other superior.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Commutation of the Prison Sentence of Frank Lopez, October 17, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

COMMUTATION OF THE PRISON SENTENCE OF FRANK LOPEZ

[Released to the Press, October 17, 1938]

Frank Lopez *alias* John Halstead *alias* Tom Simms *alias* San Anderson *alias* Sun Light *alias* San Sanderson, a parolee from the Folsom Penitentiary of California, U. S. A., who, it will be remembered, at the point of a gun held up an American businessman in this City and compelled the latter to issue a check for more than P3,000, the proceeds of which were turned over to the bandit, and who was confined in Bilibid to serve a total sentence of 1 year, 2 months, and 3 days, and 11 days of subsidiary imprisonment, by reason of his conviction in two cases for robbery, one for theft and one for illegal possession of a firearm, has just left this port on the *S.S. President Coolidge* which sailed for San Francisco early this morning.

His total sentence will expire on October 30 of this year, but His Excellency, the President, commuted said sentence on October 16 to enable the proper authorities to transfer this American convict to the United States on the above named trans-Pacific boat. The day of the sailing of said vessel being the nearest to the date of his release from Bilibid upon the expiration of his sentence, it was deemed advisable that his confinement in Bilibid be shortened by commutation by a few days. He is traveling on the *S.S. President Coolidge* in the custody of the Captain of the ship who has been designated as Deputy Marshal, and upon arrival in San Francisco he will be turned over to an agent of the California Board of Prison Terms and Paroles, arrangements to this effect having been made with the California authorities through the Office of the United States High Commissioner who has kindly and cooperated with the Philippine Government in the happy settlement of this matter.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Statement: President Quezon on Inauguration of the City of Bacolod, October 19, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

INAUGURATION OF THE CITY OF BACOLOD

[Released to the Press, October 19, 1938]

I am happy to congratulate the people of Occidental Negros on the inauguration of the City of Bacolod. I have been watching the growth of this town and the tremendous progress it has achieved; and I signed the bill changing its status from that of a mere town to a city, because I believe that the change is just and deserved.

I feel certain that Bacolod will be one of the most prosperous and progressive cities of the Philippines, just as it has been one of the leading towns in the past. If the people of this province will continue cooperating with the government of this new city in the same manner as they have done in the past, I am sure that this prediction will come true. I hope that this will be the case, for I know that the man whom I have chosen to head the new city deserves the cooperation of the people of Occidental Negros to the limit.

Again, I congratulate them on this great event in their province.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on alleged purchase of Philippine Railway Bonds by Commonwealth Government, October 31, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**ALLEGED PURCHASE OF PHILIPPINE RAILWAY BONDS
BY COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT**

[Released to the Press, October 31, 1938]

Several inquiries have been received from America and Europe as to whether or not the Government of the Commonwealth will buy the bonds of the Philippine Railway Company. It is alleged that some members of the National Assembly have given assurances that such a transaction will be made.

To protect the public from becoming the victims of any racketeering, the President desires to say that the Government of the Commonwealth will not purchase the said bonds at any price.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Broadcast of the Address of the President on the Occasion of the Third Anniversary of the Commonwealth, November 2, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**BROADCAST OF THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE
OCCASION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH**

[Released to the Press, November 2, 1938]

The address to the nation of President Quezon on the Grandstand at the New Luneta on November 15, at 11 o'clock in the morning, immediately after the civil and military parade, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines will be broadcast by remote control over Stations KZRM and KZIB simultaneously on long wave for the Philippine audience and on short wave for interested listeners in Far Eastern countries and other parts of the world.

Widespread interest is shown every year since the inauguration of the Commonwealth in the anniversary address of the President, who has often made it an occasion for the announcement of an important policy of the administration. It is recalled that it was on the first anniversary of the Commonwealth that the President delivered his celebrated address on social justice. Last year immediately after the military parade the President explained the policies of the administration on taxation, and immediately after the speech he signed at Malacañan the bill abolishing the cedula tax which was passed by the National Assembly upon his recommendation.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the results of the Election for members of the National Assembly

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Results of the Election for Members of the National Assembly

[Released on November 9, 1938]

I am very happy over the results of the election not so much because of the defeat of every candidate of the opposition as because this has been the cleanest and most peaceful election ever held in the Philippines. Time and again I have publicly stated that I was more interested in having lawful and clean elections than in the triumph of the Nacionalista candidates. So I am thankful to all.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs,
November 29, 1938**

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs

[Released on November 29, 1938]

The report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs which is being made public today has my complete endorsement and I sincerely hope that the Congress of the United States will pass the necessary legislation that will correct the imperfections and inequalities of the Independence Act of March 24, 1934, in line with the recommendations contained in the said report of the Joint Preparatory Committee. The stability of the future Philippine Republic and of its national economy will not be possible unless the recommendations of the report are given effect. The Filipino people confidently hope that the Congress of the United States will not deny them this relief.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Celebration of Bonifacio Day, November 30, 1938

Press Statement* of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Celebration of Bonifacio Day

[Released on November 30, 1938]

On this day, which we celebrate every year in honor of the patriot Andres Bonifacio, we need not so much be told as to be reminded of the virtues that were the attributes of his character. The yearly celebration of Bonifacio Day, far from making it a commonplace holiday despoiled of its original significance, should lend to it the color of a beautiful tradition, inviolable and revered.

At present, when the measure of service seems to be, with most people, the yardstick of personal gain, a dose of the fine qualities of Andres Bonifacio would ameliorate the current widespread spiritual poverty. The story of his life and death should re-impress upon us more deeply the fact that no sacrifice is too dear that we cannot afford to make it for the sake of this land that we call ours. Bonifacio made a lasting one, the ultimate sacrifice. Those of us who are forever appalled at the idea of personal loss will find new courage in the life of the Great Plebeian.

* Message of the President to the people of the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: President Quezon on the Celebration of Bonifacio Day, November 30, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Celebration of Bonifacio Day

[Released on November 30, 1938]

On this day, which we celebrate every year in honor of the patriot Andres Bonifacio, we need not so much be told as to be reminded of the virtues that were the attributes of his character. The yearly celebration of Bonifacio Day, far from making it a commonplace holiday despoiled of its original significance, should lend to it the color of a beautiful tradition, inviolable and revered.

At present, when the measure of service seems to be, with most people, the yardstick of personal gain, a dose of the fine qualities of Andres Bonifacio would ameliorate the current widespread spiritual poverty. The story of his life and death should re-impress upon us more deeply the fact that no sacrifice is too dear that we cannot afford to make it for the sake of this land that we call ours. Bonifacio made a lasting one, the ultimate sacrifice. Those of us who are forever appalled at the idea of personal loss will find new courage in the life of the Great Plebeian.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Statement: President Quezon on the Appointment of the Honorable Manuel V. Moran as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, December 8, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On the Appointment of the Honorable Manuel V. Mohan as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

[Released on December 8, 1938]

President Quezon today appointed the Honorable Manuel V. Moran as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines vice the Honorable Jose Abad Santos, recently appointed to the Cabinet as Secretary of Justice.

In filling the vacancy in the Supreme Court, the President is not unmindful of the long, faithful, and efficient service of the Honorable Antonio Horilleno, Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals. The President, however, feels that in the present circumstances the interest of the public service requires that Presiding Justice Horilleno be retained at the head of the latter court. The office of Presiding Justice is of great importance.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the Conferences between the President and Assemblyman Buencamino regarding the Philippine Railway Bond Case, December 14, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On the Conferences between the President and Assemblyman Buencamino regarding the Philippine Railway Bond Case

[Released on December 14, 1938]

With reference to a statement of Mr. Juan Sumulong published in an evening paper commenting upon the conferences held between the President and Assemblyman Felipe Buencamino and asking that “light and more light” be given to the public about the subject of these conferences and about the facts of the Philippine Railway bond case in which Assemblyman Buencamino is involved, this office wishes to state:

1. That the President, upon his own initiative, has already given to the public all the information that he has on the subject.
2. That the President’s conferences with Assemblyman Buencamino have been of a purely official character and not “intimate” as Mr. Sumulong asserts—meaning, evidently, personal friendly visits.
3. That the purpose of these conferences was to discuss the trip of Assemblyman Buencamino to the United States which the President promised the Federal authorities he would facilitate. In those conferences, however, Assemblyman Buencamino took occasion to explain to the President his dealings with Buckner, but this information the President felt he should not give out to the public, lest his action in this respect might be considered as an effort to influence the public mind in favor of Assemblyman Buencamino. The matter is being investigated by the Federal authorities and the President is cooperating with those authorities as he has so offered and is desirous to do. If Assemblyman Buencamino wishes to disclose to the public the explanations he has given to the President which in his (Buencamino’s) opinion clears him of any guilt, it is Assemblyman Buencamino’s privilege to do so.
4. That Mr. Sumulong is absolutely wrong when he states that it would be the Philippine Treasury and, therefore, the Filipino people, and not any one in New York or in the United States, who would be the victim of Buckner’s alleged fraudulent operations. This statement of Mr. Sumulong shows plainly that he is either grossly ignorant of the facts which have already been given to the public both in Manila and in New York, or that he is actuated merely by partisan political motives in a vain effort to discredit the President. The President has on several occasions publicly stated in Manila that the Government of the Commonwealth would not buy the Philippine Railway bonds, and in New York, Mr. Caffrey, of the Securities and Exchange Commission, has given out statements to the effect that his investigations revealed that the President had repeatedly denied that the Government of the Commonwealth had any plan to buy the bonds of the Philippine Railway. Moreover, Mr. Caffrey said that the President has even used his official position to prevent people from being misled by Mr. Buckner. How could the Philippine Treasury be the victim of Mr. Buckner’s activities when the Government of the Commonwealth is neither going, nor obligated, to buy the bonds?

The absurdity of Mr. Sumulong’s assumption must be evident to all but himself. The indictment against Mr. Buckner is for using the mails to defraud the public, in that he made them believe that the Government of the Commonwealth would buy those bonds when, as a matter of fact, the Government had repeatedly announced it would not buy them.

Since the Government is not buying the bonds as repeatedly stated by the President, the Philippine Treasury will not be affected and the Government can, therefore, suffer no loss of any kind.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Statement: President Quezon on the Conferences held by the President with the Secretary of Labor and Different Heads of Local Labor Organizations, December 16, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On the Conferences held by the President with the Secretary of Labor and Different Heads of Local Labor Organizations

[Released on December 16, 1938]

There have been several versions appearing in the morning papers regarding the conference held by the President yesterday morning with Secretary Villanueva, Mr. Cresenciano Torres, President of the Federation of Labor, and Mr. Felix Cortes, President of the Union of Manila Railroad Workers, and the conference in the afternoon between the President and a committee of Manila Railroad men.

These are the facts: The President asked Secretary of Labor Villanueva to bring Mr. Torres and Mr. Cortes to the President's office, and the President told these persons why he had decided not to permit the Department of Labor to intervene in any question affecting the employees or laborers of the Manila Railroad Company, and why he would not recognize any outsider as spokesman for the Manila Railroad employees and laborers. Mr. Torres and Mr. Cortes accepted the reasons given by the President as satisfactory, and stated that their only purpose in their intervention in the matter was to cooperate with the President in his social justice program and to prevent strikes among the Manila Railroad employees. The President expressed his gratification over the statement of Mr. Torres and Mr. Cortes. In the afternoon, the President ordered former Assemblyman Felipe Jose, who is now an employee in Malacañan assigned to matters connected with labor, to bring the committee of the Manila Railroad men to the President's office. The members of the committee were Ciriaco Almanzor, Tomas Laxamana, Juan Fernando, Agaton Paraz, Daniel de la Cruz, and Ceferino Gonzales. The President reiterated to them this determination not to hear them unless their petitions were presented exclusively by Railroad men to the management of the Railroad Company or, on subsequent appeal, to the President, and warned them that if there were to be any strikes he would consider every striker as voluntarily separating himself from the Railroad Company. The President told them: (1) That he would refer their petitions to the management of the company and order the investigation of such charges as they have presented against individual employees; (2) That he has absolute faith in the honesty and ability of the Manager of the Manila Railroad Company, Mr. Jose Paez, and was resolved to uphold the manager's stand; (3) That he would advise the General Manager that his (the President's) order of P1.25 as a minimum wage in Manila includes the laborers of the Railroad who are working in Caloocan; (4) That he would ask the management to build a clubhouse for the employees and laborers of the Manila Railroad in Caloocan where they may meet socially or to discuss the affairs of the company, which clubhouse may also be used as the headquarters for the Labor Union of the Railroad employees; (5) That he had no objection to the employees of the Railroad Company organizing a union among themselves, if it is exclusively among themselves; (6) That steps would be taken for the improvement of living conditions of the laborers of the Manila Railroad Company; and lastly, (7) That the question of the increase of their salaries and wages would be submitted to the management of the company.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the murder of ex-Governor James Fugate, December 16, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the murder of ex-Governor James Fugate

[Released on December 16, 1938]

I was shocked to learn of the murder of ex-Governor Fugate. It was an act of savagery, pure and simple, and no stone will be left unturned to discover and punish the criminal. Ex-Governor Fugate had been governor of Sulu for many years and had rendered the Government and the people excellent service. His heart was in his job and he performed his duties in a spirit of self-sacrifice. He was one of those Americans who have written their names in the history of the American noble work in the Philippines.

I mourn deeply his death.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the Conference with Professors of the College of Law, U. P., who were affected by the report on sale of textbooks, December 20, 1938

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On the Conference with Professors of the College of Law, U. P., who were affected by the report on sale of textbooks

[Released on December 20, 1938]

At my request, the President of the University of the Philippines brought to my office for conference, Dean Jose A. Espiritu and Professors Vicente G. Sinco, Pedro Ylagan, Gerardo Florendo, Francisco Capistrano, and Vicente Santiago. I called Dean Espiritu and the other professors to this conference because two of the professors had presented their resignations and the others were contemplating to do the same, for they felt that the findings of the Board of Regents were a reflection upon their character and terminated their usefulness to the university. I gave these gentlemen my view of the whole matter. I told them that having heard the statements of members of the Board in connection with the report of the committee, declaring the integrity and competency of Dean Espiritu and the other professors, and after carefully reading the findings of the committee, I was positively of the opinion that their character and integrity had not been in any way impugned and that all that the Board did was to express its opinion that the practice of the sale of textbooks and notes without following the regulations which the Board of Regents had already adopted but which were not fully enforced by the committee for that purpose, was erroneous and should, therefore, be discontinued. I told Dean Espiritu and the other professors that during the discussion by the Board of Regents I made it a point to find out the qualifications of all of them as professors and that there was a unanimous opinion favorable to their ability and character. For this reason, I told Dean Espiritu and the other professors that, in my opinion, they had no sufficient ground to present their resignations and to sever their connection with the university. Moreover, I expressed the hope that they would show their spirit of cooperation and willingness to serve the university by withdrawing their resignations, however badly they may feel about the findings of the committee. I am glad to say that all of them agreed to continue teaching in the university, and accepted my opinion as final.

With reference to Professor Sinco, whose connection with the Community Publishers and the U. P. Press was questioned, I told him that I went into this matter after the report of the committee created by the Board of Regents had been approved by the Board and I am satisfied beyond doubt that what Professor Sinco did was in the interest of the U. P. Press. The reason why he did not seek authority from the Board of Regents to organize the Community Publishers was that, having been authorized by the Board of Regents to accept the position of manager of the U. P. Press, Professor Sinco took it for granted that whatever he did in the interest of the University Press was a part of his duty as manager of the Press. Moreover, everything that he did in this connection was approved by the Board of Directors of the University Press itself. From my investigation, it appears that really Professor Sinco has not profited but, on the contrary, has suffered financial loss in the Community Publishers, and that all his acts were done for the benefit of the U. P. Press.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Decision of the Board of Judges of the Rizal Biography Contest, December 19, 1938

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**DECISION OF THE BOARD OF JUDGES OF THE RIZAL
BIOGRAPHY CONTEST**

[Released to the Press, January 16, 1939]

MANILA, *December 19, 1938*

His			Excellency
Honorable	Manuel	L.	Quezon
President	of	the	Philippines
City of Manila			

SIR: In behalf of the Board of Judges designated by Your Excellency, charged with studying the merits of the different manuscripts submitted in the Rizal Biography Contest, called at Your Excellency's initiative, I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency a brief resume of the work of the aforementioned Board, and to forward to you the findings setting forth the decision of the aforesaid Board, which has conducted a most careful and conscientious study of the various compositions.

The adjoined findings show that the Board has adjudicated the first prize, consisting of the sum of P3,000, to the composition drafted in Spanish, under the pen name of "Lankan-Dula"; and the second prize, consisting of the sum of P1,000, to the manuscript in English, under the pseudonym of "Tamaraw." Likewise the Board has decided to make an honorable mention of the two manuscripts, under the pen names of "Talo-Saling" and "Apó-Ni-Dimas," respectively, both of which were written in English. In all, twelve manuscripts were submitted in the contest, eleven in English and one in Spanish, viz., that of "Lakan-Dula."

In the performance of their duties, the members of the Board noticed one thing; namely, that in some of the manuscripts the fact as to whether it is true or not that, shortly before his death, Rizal did recant his anti-Catholic ideas, is discussed pretty thoroughly and emphatically, the negative side being held by some, especially by the writer under the pseudonym of "Lakan-Dula", and the affirmative, by the rest. This question is discreetly avoided in a few of the manuscripts.

The Board charged me with the special mission of setting forth in this Report to Your Excellency that, in studying the merits of the compositions submitted to it. it has wholly disregarded the views of the writers concerned on the retraction attributed to Rizal, not only on the ground that the same is a matter of opinion, and cannot therefore be deemed a norm of historical accuracy, but also for the further reason that the Board thinks that neither side of the controversy can substantially affect the figure and the work of Rizal, as a patriot, and as a social, political, and moral leader of his people and race. We have, for instance, the manuscript under the pen name of "Lakan-Dula" which, according to the decision of the Board, deserves the first prize. All that portion thereof relative to the retraction attributed to Rizal may be omitted and yet the manuscript still would be the best of all those submitted in the Contest, not only from the literary and biographical standpoints, but also because of the keen critical sense displayed in the analysis of the life and achievements of Rizal throughout the work. Certain superior features not found either in the competing manuscripts or in any of the biographies of Rizal heretofore published, are given in the work under the pen name of "Lakan-Dula." For instance, the critical study made in it both of Rizal's novels and of their characters is thorough and superb in the highest degree. In addition, new facts which shed additional light on Rizal's genius and multifarious talents, such as, for instance, the tremendous quantity of writings bearing on his proposal to found a Philippine agricultural colony in Borneo, are not only set forth, but a s general rule, his figure towers throughout the manuscript and through peculiar, though appropriate, features.

One thing is undeniable, and is given prominence throughout the manuscripts deserving of prizes, and that is this: That from infancy and on through young manhood, Rizal had always been a deeply religious person. Consequently, in an appreciation of his colossal moral nature, the question of the faith formally professed by him is not important. Moreover, the more completely our natural prejudices and biases, engendered by our proximity to the historic moment of Rizal, are weaned away from our minds, this feature of Rizal's life shall gradually lose interest and insensibly be merged in time's remote perspective, and it is even likely that the historian and biographer of the future will wholly neglect it in his calm and objective survey of the life and achievements of Rizal.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL C. BRIONES
*Chairman, Board of Judges
Rizal Biography Contest*

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on use of proceeds from Concert of Philippine Constabulary Band, January 17, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**USE OF PROCEEDS FROM CONCERT OF PHILIPPINE
CONSTABULARY BAND**

[Released to the Press on January 17, 1939]

The proceeds from the concert which the Philippine Constabulary Band is giving on the 20th of January will not be devoted wholly or in part to the construction of a chapel at the Quezon Institute, as advertised. The President cannot authorize the giving of a concert by an army band for the benefit of any religious creed or for any purely private institution. The concert will be given on the date and place announced, but the proceeds will be used in part for the benefit of the sanatorium itself, and in part as expense money for the members of the band who are being sent to the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on celebration of President Roosevelt's Birthday, January 25, 1939 PRESS
STATEMENT**

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CELEBRATION OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S BIRTHDAY

[Released to the Press on January 25, 1939]

The President of the United States has wisely and generously permitted his birthday to be celebrated annually in a manner that will secure funds for the control of infantile paralysis. It is a noble act on his part and merits the approval of all right-thinking men and women.

In the Philippines we have been fortunate thus far in avoiding epidemics of infantile paralysis. Yet the disease occurs among our children and adults. Our physicians and scientists must be ready to meet any situation that may arise and to conduct constructive scientific research. To make them ready to the extent of present human knowledge and foresight, every centavo given for the purchase of tickets at modest sums to assist in the observance of the President's birthday, goes to a worthy cause.

I pledge my personal wholehearted support and the aid of the Commonwealth Government, and urge generous cooperation by the Filipino people to make the celebration of President Roosevelt's birthday in the Philippines an unqualified success.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Jewish Settlement in Mindanao, February 15, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon: *
On Jewish Settlement in Mindanao

[Released on February 15, 1939]

Sometime ago, the President created a committee composed of Cabinet members to study the question of political refugees seeking admission to the Philippines and to make recommendations. This Committee had Secretary Roxas of Finance as its Chairman, and Secretary Alunan of the Interior, Secretary Santos of Justice, and Secretary Vargas, members. In view of recent publicity given to this matter, the Committee has, by authority of the President, prepared the following statement for publication:

Recent occurrences in Europe have forced upon the world the problem of providing an asylum for political refugees. These refugees have been estimated at over 500,000, mostly Jews. Under the leadership of Great Britain and the United States, an Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees has been organized in London to formulate plans and to raise the necessary funds for the convenient settlement of these refugees in other countries. Yesterday this Committee appropriated \$300,000,000 to defray the expenses of transportation of refugees and to provide them with capital to start with in productive enterprises in countries which should express a willingness to accept them.

The interest shown by many governments in the solution of the refugee problem is predicated upon broad humanitarian grounds. These political refugees, regardless of race or religious belief, allege that they have not been free to think their own thoughts, to express their own feelings, or to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. Democratic governments, both in Europe and in the Americas, have assured the Intergovernmental Committee of their unstinted cooperation. The Commonwealth Government, upon invitation of the United States, could not turn a deaf ear to the sufferings of these unfortunate people. The Philippine Commonwealth, founded as it is upon justice and righteousness and the preservation of essential human liberties, could not but view with sympathy the opportunity to do its share in meeting the situation.

In line with these sentiments, His Excellency, the President, with the cooperation of the State Department of the United States, authorized the admission of political refugees on a selective basis. Only those whose professional qualifications, particularly in science, could supply needed services in the Philippines, have been admitted. In his inaugural message to the National Assembly, His Excellency, the President, explained fully his action in this matter. He emphasized the fact that the present immigration laws do not inhibit the immigration of such refugees into the Philippines, irrespective of their number or personal qualifications. With the cooperation of the Department of State, however, the President has succeeded in limiting the number of immigrants only to those who would be of advantage to the Commonwealth.

Sometime ago, representations were made to the Philippine Government by authorized spokesmen of these refugees, proposing the settlement of several thousand refugees and their families in Mindanao or other sparsely populated areas in the Philippines. It was indicated that these refugees would be provided with sufficient funds to establish them in farming communities, and that they would be assisted by competent personnel to plan and direct the development of the land that may be assigned to them. It was also intimated that only experienced farmers would go to this settlement, and that they would immediately take the necessary naturalization papers to become Filipino citizens.

The Philippine Government considered this proposition in connection with the project to settle and develop Mindanao. The Government believed that here was an opportunity to cooperate with an international enterprise inspired by a most laudable purpose, and that it could be accomplished in the interest of a national program, without in any way depriving Filipino citizens of the opportunity of enjoying the benefits of that undertaking.

Moreover, the Philippines could gain positive advantages from the execution of this plan. The proposed settlement would provide Filipino settlers in neighboring areas with a practical example of modern farming methods practised in the most advanced farming sections in Europe. Also, these refugees could develop new crops familiar to them and

which might be profitably produced here. These settlements would have the advice of competent technical men, agriculturists, land chemists, irrigation experts, and such other technological assistants as are needed in projects of this nature. As this settlement is to be undertaken chiefly on a cooperative basis, Filipino farmers would see a practical application of the principles of cooperative farming and marketing as well as the working of consumers' cooperatives.

There is, of course, a limit to the number of settlers that can be admitted under this plan. Realizing this fact the Government has advised the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees that it was favorably inclined to a plan for the settlement of selected refugees in Mindanao or other sparsely populated areas of the Philippines, to be determined by the Philippine Government. The number of such settlers is to be fixed from time to time by our Government, having in view the interests of our national economy and subject to the following conditions:

1. That a responsible committee representing the refugees or acting on their behalf shall submit a satisfactory plan to finance such settlements;
2. That the settlers shall agree to engage in subsistence farming or such other activities as may be compatible with the best interests of all the Philippines ;
3. That they shall take out naturalization as early as possible, thereby expressing their intention to become Filipino citizens;
4. That until they become Filipino citizens they shall reside on the land reserved for them;
5. That the number of refugees to be admitted as settlers shall be fixed from time to time by the Commonwealth Government acting upon the recommendation of the committee in charge of settlement in course of preparation, having in view the committee's ability to take care of the settlers and the consequences of large-scale settlement upon the national economy of the Philippines; and
6. That the plan contemplated and its execution shall be subject to the immigration laws now in force or which may hereafter be passed by the National Assembly.

It is believed that the conditions prescribed by the Government are sufficient to safeguard the interests of the Philippines. Moreover, it is expressly stipulated that the admission of these refugees should be at all times subject to the provisions of the immigration laws now in force or which may hereafter be enacted by the National Assembly.

There is no plan to settle large numbers of immigrants in Mindanao or any other part of the Philippines. It is the policy of the Commonwealth Government to preserve the natural resources of the nation for the Filipinos and their descendants. The areas that may be allotted to the proposed settlement for political refugees will be insignificant compared with the vast tracts of vacant lands that now exist.

Footnote: * On February 17, His Excellency, the President, received from the Refugee Economic Corporation of New York, the following cablegram:

“Your noble attitude toward unfortunate refugees publicly announced in London will have great influence throughout the world. We take this opportunity of expressing our deeply felt appreciation of your humane spirit and generous cooperation respectfully.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Granting Pardons and Paroles to Bilibid Prisoners, February 19, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

GRANTING PARDONS AND PAROLES TO BILIBID PRISONERS

[Released to the Press on February 19, 1939]

It has come to the knowledge of His Excellency, the President, that there are some persons who approach prisoners, or relatives or friends of prisoners, with an offer that, for a fee or other consideration, they would work to the end that a prisoner now serving sentence may be given pardon or parole. His Excellency desires to make it known to everyone that pardons and paroles are granted by him only after a thorough investigation of the merits of every case by the Board of Indeterminate Sentence or by the Board of Pardons and after the receipt by him of appropriate recommendation from the Secretary of Justice and the Secretary to the President, and before granting pardon or parole, His Excellency personally looks into the record of every case presented to him. No other consideration, except merit, is taken into account. Therefore, prisoners are advised that their petitions for pardon should be submitted to His Excellency, without outside help except perhaps that of their immediate relatives, and for the purpose of formulating such petitions, they may avail themselves of the services of prison officials, who are now being instructed to forward immediately such petitions to the President's Office.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on support of President Roosevelt on proposed legislation to increase the coconut oil excise tax

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On Support of President Roosevelt on Proposed Legislation to Increase the Coconut Oil Excise Tax

[Released to the Press on March 8, 1939]

Through the United States High Commissioner, President Roosevelt has telegraphed President Quezon that he is giving his personal attention to the proposed legislation to increase the coconut oil excise tax and that President Quezon's views as cabled to President Roosevelt a few days ago are receiving his careful and sympathetic consideration.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on appointment of Secretary of Public Instructions, April 13, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

[Released to the Press on April 13, 1939]

I have talked to Vice-President Osmeña by long distance telephone this morning and he informed me that there is no likelihood of his being able to leave Washington before June, and so he requested me to proceed with the appointment of a new Secretary of Public Instruction in order that the Department will not be without a head for such a long time. I expect, therefore, to send shortly the nomination of a new Secretary of Public Instruction to the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on postponement of action on Philippine Omnibus Bill by the Senate Committee on territories and insular affairs, April 20, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On postponement of action on Philippine Omnibus Bill by the Senate Committee on territories and Insular affairs *

[Released on April 20, 1939]

With reference to the action taken by the Senate committee on the bill to effectuate the recommendations of the Joint Preparatory Committee, while I am of course disappointed because of our failure to secure at this time the approval by Congress of said measure, I must confess that the action taken by the Senate committee was not wholly unexpected. In his statement, Senator Tydings made it perfectly plain that the refusal of the committee to act at this time does not in any way involve any change in the policy agreed upon between the United States and the Philippines regarding independence. Recent developments in the international situation must have had something to do with the decision of the committee as indicated by the reports received in the Philippines relative to the committee's action.

Vice-President Osmeña and Commissioner Elizalde have done a fine piece of work, and I do not believe that under the circumstances anyone could have done better, if as much, as they have. In the negotiations concerning the bill, they represented the Philippines both in the executive department and in Congress with signal ability deserving of commendation.

Confident of the sense of fairness of the United States, I have not lost hope that we will secure remedial legislation before 1941 when the export taxes will take effect under the present law, and which, if allowed to take effect without modification, will have serious consequences upon our national economy. I am satisfied that Congress is aware of the difficulties we will encounter unless such legislation is enacted in due time.

Senator Tydings, the chairman of the Senate territories' committee, and Congressman Kocalkowski, the chairman of the House committee on insular affairs, are well acquainted with our problems and we have every reason to rely upon their friendly and sympathetic interest.

Footnote: * Vice-President Sergio Osmeña has informed the President of the Philippines of the decision of the Senate committee on territories and insular affairs in postponing all action on the economic adjustment bill now pending consideration before it.

In taking this step the committee, through its chairman. Senator Millard E. Tydings of Maryland, has issued a statement explaining its stand.

The Tydings statement, as transmitted to His Excellency, the President, by Vice-President Osmeña from Washington. D. C. on April 19, 1939, follows in full:

“The bill before this committee does not deal with the political aspects of the Independence Act. It deals only with the economic aspects as contained in the original law (Tydings-McDuffie) passed in 1934.

“After full discussion of the subject matter of the bill it was intimated that President Quezon was likely to visit this country probably in June. The committee felt that in order to avoid all possible misunderstanding in dealing with the economic phases of independence it would be wise to have President Quezon before the committee, if he is coming to this country, so that the matter might be dealt with in the light of all the facts obtainable. The committee, therefore, decided not to take action on the pending bill at this time.

“It should be emphasized, to avoid misunderstanding, that the pending bill does not deal with the political side of independence for the Philippines which, under existing law, would be finally obtained in 1946.

“There was no suggestion in the committee that any action would be taken by it which would alter the objective of the United States to give the Philippines complete, absolute, and unconditional independence and on the part of the Filipinos to obtain complete, absolute, and unconditional independence. The question the committee had under consideration was purely the economic phases of the matter insofar as they had to do with permitting the Philippines, when the country becomes independent, to set up an economy which would enable her to start on the road to nationhood without being confronted by economic difficulties too great to cope with.

“As was said before, the committee feels it is wise, in view of the probability of President Quezon’s visit to the United States, to withhold final action in this matter until it can acquaint President Quezon with the point of view and interests of the American people in line with the point of view and interests of the Filipino people on the economic phases attending independence.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: Vice-President Osmeña's expression of thanks, April 27, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

VICE-PRESIDENT OSMEÑA'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS

[Released to the Press on April 24, 1939]

Vice-President Sergio Osmeña has cabled His Excellency, the President, expressing his thanks for having been given the opportunity to head the Department of Public Instruction. His message follows:

“On leaving the Department of Public Instruction, may I express to you my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the confidence which you have shown in appointing me head of the Department and for the support that you have generously accorded to me during my incumbency.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on possibility of constructing airplanes in the Philippines, May 12, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING AIRPLANES IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

[Released to the Press on May 12, 1939]

The possibility of constructing airplanes in the Philippines with the use of native materials has been demonstrated by the Philippine Aircraft Corporation, whose first product, a two-seater low-wing monoplane, has passed every government test and performed very satisfactorily in the last few months, according to a special report of the Bureau of Aëronautics forwarded to Malacañan. The monoplane *Snipe*, which has flown for over 380 hours in different trips to various parts of the country, has proved its airworthiness and reliability.

The airplane was built with the aid of the Bureau of Aëronautics, whose technical men were consulted freely during its construction. The bureau also conducted rigid tests to insure the airworthiness of this craft and the strength of every one of its parts. After the various tests, the plane was finally submitted to a flight test, which was successful. A license for the airplane was thereupon granted by the Bureau of Aëronautics.

According to the bureau, airplanes which can perform just as well as most airplanes built in other countries, if not better, can be built in the Philippines at a much lower price. The use of Philippine woods in airplane building has been gradually increasing, as a result of the successful experiments conducted by the bureau with *calantas*, *manggachapui*, and *white lawan*, which have encouraged prospective aircraft builders in this country to adopt them for airplane construction. *Manggachapui*, which has a strength and weight ratio comparable to that of the American spruce, was recently used to replace the damaged spars of a commercially-licensed plane bought in the United States. The repaired craft is none the worse for the change. Experimental propellers have been built of *manggachapui* wood by the bureau for the purpose of finding a suitable substitute for American wood in aircraft construction.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on National Hospital Day, May 12, 1939

**Press Statement
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On National Hospital Day**

[Released to the Press on May 12, 1939]

This year's nationwide celebration of National Hospital Day serves as another milestone in the steady progress being made in safeguarding the life and health of every Philippine community. The Government has built additional hospitals, sanatoria, and maternity homes; it has established free clinics and puericulture centers in towns, and is now providing remote communities with adequate public dispensaries.

Indicative of the people's interest and support to those undertakings is the increasing number of patients admitted and cases treated in those institutions where modern hospital equipments and the latest methods of treatment are used to protect public health and promote public welfare. I trust that the present observance of National Hospital Day will bring home more effectively to the people the incalculable benefits that are derived from our hospitals.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on question of amending the Constitution, May 17, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

QUESTION OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

[Released to the Press on May 17, 1939]

After an exchange of ideas between the President and a committee appointed by the National Assembly, in the presence of members of the Cabinet and a committee of governors, it was decided that no action on the question of amending the Constitution be taken during this session of the National Assembly, in order that due consideration could be given not only to the amendment relative to the post of Chief Executive, but also to the other amendments referred to by the President in his address to the National Assembly. It was likewise decided to appoint a committee to study the proposed amendments.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on achievement of the Second National Assembly, May 18, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

[Released to the Press on May 18, 1939]

The record of this National Assembly stands unsurpassed in the history of our country. Never before in one single session have there been passed so many important and far-reaching measures as in this first session of the Second National Assembly. And to climax the unparalleled achievement, the Assembly adjourned at an early time. I am proud of our Assembly!

My heartiest congratulations to the Speaker, the Floor Leader, the chairmen of the committees, and to every member of the National Assembly; and my best wishes for a well-earned rest to all.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on resolution of Representative Alexander charging the administration with pro-Japanese activities, May 20, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On resolution of Representative Alexander charging the administration with pro-Japanese activities

[Released on May 20, 1939]

I do not care to say anything with reference to the resolution introduced by Representative John Grant Alexander, of Minnesota, charging my administration with pro-Japanese activities, except that the State and the War Departments in Washington and the United States High Commissioner in the Philippines are in a position to prove the utter falsity of the charges.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the Death of Dr. Rafael Palma, May 25, 1939

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Death of Dr. Rafael Palma**

[Released on May 25, 1939]

At the request of His Excellency, the interment of Don Rafael Palma, scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, at four o'clock in the afternoon, has been postponed to Saturday, May 27, at the same hour, in order that the President may personally attend the services.

Acting upon his instructions, the Secretary of the Interior and the president of the University of the Philippines have also been authorized to display the flags at their offices at half-mast in memory of Dr. Palma, who was former Secretary of the Interior and President of the University.

Aboard the presidential yacht Casiana, the President issued the following message upon learning of the death of Dr. Palma:

“With the death of Rafael Palma, the Philippines has lost a patriot, a scholar, and one of the noblest characters that ever lived. He has joined the immortals, leaving us the example of a life devoted to the service of his country and his fellow men. May he rest in peace.”

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Statement: President Quezon on approval of Bill raising the amount that may be loaned by the Philippine National Bank for agricultural purposes, June 9, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On approval of Bill raising the amount that may be loaned by the Philippine National Bank for agricultural purposes

[Released on June 9, 1939]

Under its charter, the Philippine National Bank may grant agricultural loans up to 60 per cent of its capital and surplus. But, having reached this limit, the bank can no longer grant such loans.

Bill No. 563 proposes to raise the amount that may be loaned by the Philippine National Bank for agricultural purposes from 60 per cent to 75 per cent of its capital and surplus. On the basis of the present capital and surplus of the national bank, the approval of this bill will release an additional amount of about P3,000,000 for agricultural loans.

On May 9, 1939, the National Assembly approved a bill (No. 965), which I have just signed, creating an Agricultural and Industrial Bank to meet the credit needs of agriculture and the industries. In view of the fact, however, that it will take a few months before this Agricultural and Industrial Bank could begin to operate, it is deemed necessary to authorize the Philippine National Bank to continue granting agricultural loans in the meantime.

I have signed this Bill No. 563 merely as a temporary measure, pending the establishment of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank created under Bill No. 965. When the Agricultural and Industrial Bank shall have been established, there will no longer be any need for the Philippine National Bank to grant long-term agricultural loans, and it is to be expected that the bank will cease granting such loans and devote its activities purely to commercial banking, for it is not a good policy for a commercial bank receiving commercial deposits to tie up such a large portion of its assets in long-term credits. A commercial bank should, at all times, maintain a highly liquid position, and it is my purpose to see to it that the Philippine National Bank be maintained in that state.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on approval of Tax Code, June 15, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On approval of Tax Code

[Released on June 15, 1939]

I have carefully considered the objections presented against the Tax Code and have come to the conclusion that, under the circumstances, it is my duty to approve the bill. Although under the Constitution I am empowered to veto any separate item or items in a revenue bill without affecting the validity of the rest of the bill, in the present case I cannot veto any provision of the Tax Code without causing great loss of revenue to the Government for the repealing provisions of the code do away with all laws now in force governing internal revenue taxes with few exceptions. For instance, if the provisions of the code relative to the sales tax were vetoed and the remaining provisions of the code were approved, the result would be the complete elimination of the sales tax.

It is my impression that most of the criticisms presented against the Tax Code were directed more to the manner and procedure of collection than to the respective taxes or their rates. The Bureau of Internal Revenue may be depended upon to enforce the provisions of the law in a manner that will be practicable and just, and if difficulties are encountered such as were predicted by some businessmen the matter could be remedied at the next session of the National Assembly.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Philippine Naturalization Law, June 17, 1939

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Philippine Naturalization Law**

[Released on June 17, 1939]

While Bill No. 770, entitled “An Act to provide for the acquisition of Philippine citizenship by naturalization, and to repeal Acts Numbered twenty-nine hundred and twenty-seven and Thirty-four hundred and forty-eight,” is an improvement over the present Naturalization Law, I do not consider it sufficiently liberal to allow the naturalization of those who, in good faith, desire to become citizens of the Philippines. It is, therefore, my purpose to ask the National Assembly to amend its provisions at its next session, so as to shorten the period of residence required for those applying for Philippine citizenship.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on the Protest Against Rise in Prices of Commodities of Prime Necessity, July 11, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On the Protest Against Rise in Prices of Commodities of Prime Necessity

[Released on July 11, 1939]

A representation of the National Commission of Labor came to see me this morning to protect against the rise in the prices of commodities of prime necessity, particularly those which have not been in any way affected by the Tax Code. There seems to be a concerted effort among the dealers in these commodities to raise the prices to an exorbitant degree. This may be due either to a desire to make undue advantage of the Tax Code in order to mulct the consuming public, or to an intention to discredit the Government in its attempt to raise sufficient revenues to meet the demands of the public service. The Government cannot tolerate such a situation. I am, therefore, instructing the Department of Justice to make an investigation, with the help of the Bureau of Commerce, in order to determine the facts and to proceed against those who may be found guilty of unlawful trade practices.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Statement: President Quezon on protest against rise in prices of commodities of prime necessity, July 11, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On protest against rise in prices of commodities of prime necessity

[Released on July 11, 1939]

A representation of the National Commission of Labor came to see me this morning to protest against the rise in the prices of commodities of prime necessity, particularly those which have not been in any way affected by the Tax Code. There seems to be a concerted effort among the dealers in these commodities to raise the prices to an exorbitant degree. This may be due either to a desire to take undue advantage of the Tax Code in order to mulct the consuming public, or to an intention to discredit the Government in its attempt to raise sufficient revenues to meet the demands of the public service. The Government cannot tolerate such a situation. I am, therefore, instructing the Department of Justice to make an investigation, with the help of the Bureau of Commerce, in order to determine the facts and to proceed against those who may be found guilty of unlawful trade practices.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Unauthorized Publication of News Regarding the President's Conference with Labor Leaders, July 21, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On Unauthorized Publication of News Regarding the President's Conference with Labor Leaders

[Released on July 21, 1939]

Some morning and afternoon papers of yesterday—Friday, the 21st—have published unauthorized and, worse still, false news regarding the conference which the President had with certain labor leaders, on Thursday afternoon, the 20th. It is not true that there has been any misunderstanding between the President and the labor leaders or any one of them on any question discussed during the conference, and as far as the allusion to the speech of Pedro Abad Santos was concerned, which was only touched upon incidentally, all that happened was this: The president said that he had been informed that, in his speech in Cabanatuan, Pedro Abad Santos advised the tenants not to pay their debts, and Mr. Feleo told the president that stenographic notes had been taken of the speech and suggested that the transcription be read. Furthermore, Mr. Feleo said that Pedro Abad Santos referred only to the debts that are usurious, and the president answered that in the case of usurious debts, of course, the tenants should not pay them.

In view of this misinformation given by some of yesterday's papers, this Office requests the newspapers to refrain from publishing any news in which they attribute a statement to the President, or in which they assert that something has taken place in a conference held by the president, unless the statement is authorized by this Office or they have given us a chance to verify the truth of the statement.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Re-election of the President, July 24, 1939

**Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Re-election of the President**

[Released on July 24, 1939]

The President has stated nothing new in his speech in Atimonan yesterday. He merely reiterated and emphasized what he has said time and again that he is not a candidate for reelection; and that, if his term of office is allowed to run until 1941, he will retire at the end of that period, and even the whole world would not be able to induce him to accept a reelection.

The point that the President tried to bring home to his fellow Tayabenses is that he is not seeking a reelection; that he does not want to be reelected; that anything he does or says is not influenced by any idea or ambition to remain in office; and that he is absolutely determined not to accept a reelection if he is permitted to continue as President until 1941, which is the end of his present term of office. And to show that his determination in this regard is irrevocable, he added that if he would run for the Presidency after 1941, the people of Tayabas should vote for the opposing candidate.

There is nothing new in this attitude of the President. He has repeatedly stated that he would not seek a reelection, and does not want to be a candidate. But that if an amendment to the Constitution is approved, shortening his term of office from six to four years, then he would consider it his duty to be a candidate to obtain a vote of confidence from the people; and in the event that the vote of the people is favorable to him, he would, under no circumstances, remain in office one day more than eight years.

In conclusion, the President directs me to say for him:

1. That he is not a candidate for reelection;
2. That he does not want to be a candidate for reelection; and
3. That he feels he would have done his full duty by our people if he is allowed to remain in office until 1941, and would not, therefore, accept a reelection at the end of that period.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement: President Quezon on supervision of agencies and offices of the National Government in Mindanao and Sulu by the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu, July 26, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On supervision of agencies and offices of the National Government in Mindanao and Sulu by the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu

[Released on July 26, 1939]

At the meeting held by the Cabinet on July 12, 1939, presided over by His Excellency, the President, it was resolved to place all the agencies and offices of the National Government (except the judicial and prosecuting services) now operating within the provinces comprising the Department of Mindanao and Sulu under the general supervision of the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu. This supervision, however, is merely supplementary to the supervision exercised by the respective departments, which is by delegation from said departments, and should not be understood as exclusive. In the exercise of such supervisory power the Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu shall not decide matters involving policies or new activities without consulting the President or the corresponding Department Head. All matters, which under the law require direct action by the executive department, shall continue to be decided by the respective Department Head.

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Statement: President Quezon on appointment of Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre as United States High Commissioner in the Philippines, July 27, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On appointment of Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre as United States High Commissioner in the Philippines

[Released on July 27, 1939]

Following the submission by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the nomination of Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre as United States High Commissioner in the Philippines, vice the Hon. Paul V. McNutt, to the United States Congress, His Excellency, the President, in an interview with Miss Violet Sweet Haven, of the International News Service, today gave out the following statement:

The choice of Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre to succeed the Honorable Paul V. McNutt as United States High Commissioner in the Philippines has been, in my opinion, the happiest that could have been made at this time. Mr. Sayre was adviser to the Government of Siam for many years, and in that position he had occasion to know the people of the Orient as well as the problems confronting them. Moreover, he has been at the head of the Interdepartmental Committee on Philippine Affairs for the last three years and is, therefore, well informed of the situation prevailing here. As everybody knows, he has been specially charged by President Roosevelt with the formulation, as well as the presentation to Congress, of the bill (now pending before that body) affecting the trade relations between the United States and the Philippines. During my last trip to America, I had the privilege of knowing Secretary Sayre, and I found his ideas regarding the Philippines not only correct but very sympathetic with the policies of the United States to grant the Filipino people their freedom in a spirit of helpfulness and cooperation. I believe no better choice could have been made, and I am confident that the interests of the United States and the Philippines will be properly safeguarded through the cooperation of Secretary Sayre as United States High Commissioner with the Government of the Philippines.

No informed person can fail to see the grave problems confronting the Filipino people in the task of preparing their country for an independent national existence. The world is in a state of turmoil; political and social conditions are unsettled; governments are suspicious of one another; and a feeling of uncertainty as to the future permeates the whole human race. I think it may be truthfully said that no one would be surprised if any day now a war should break out in which human freedom and civilization itself might be at stake. This world-wide condition naturally has its effects upon the Philippines, and if to this we should add the radical change that will take place in our national economy due to the forthcoming modifications in our trade relations with America, it will be realized that this task of nation-building, which we have at hand and which, under the most normal and favorable conditions, always entails serious difficulties, becomes a gigantic task that will require the combined talent, wisdom, and patriotism of our people, and the sympathetic assistance of the United States, if we are to have any hope of success.

Fortunately for us, we have succeeded in setting aside partisanship and selfish motives, and the whole people are inspired by the single purpose of laying the foundations for a stable government and an enduring nation. We are devoting our energies mainly to the two most pressing problems we have to face; namely, the building of our national defense and the strengthening and improvement of our national economy. A carefully considered program of national defense is being systematically carried out. The Government of the Commonwealth has been privileged to have in this monumental work the advice of one of the best soldiers of our days, General Douglas MacArthur. In its field of economic development, we are making great progress. We have started the development of Mindanao, we have created the Agricultural and Industrial Bank, we are establishing new industries, and we are rapidly completing our system of communications that will facilitate the settlement of sparsely populated sections of the country.

The bill now pending in Congress, if approved, will greatly aid in the adjustment of some of our economic problems. After coming to the Philippines Secretary Sayre will be able to acquaint himself more fully with other important matters pertaining to our relationship with America, which will likewise need action by the United States Government for their proper solution. As I am certain that Secretary Sayre will give us his unstinted cooperation in

finding a way for meeting these problems, so I particularly welcome his appointment to the high and distinguished post to which he has been called by President Roosevelt.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on appointment of Francis B. Sayre as United States High Commissioner, July 27, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On appointment of Francis B. Sayre as United States High Commissioner

[Released on July 27, 1939]

In my opinion, no better appointment could have been made. Mr. Sayre has been at the head of the Interdepartmental Committee for Philippine Affairs during the last three years and is, therefore, well acquainted with the situation here. During my last trip to the United States, I had occasion to be in frequent contact with him, and I know that his ideas about the Philippines are correct and that he is sympathetic with the policies of the United States to grant the Philippines independence under the most favorable conditions possible.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on unfounded report that amendments to the constitution will be disapproved in Washington, July 27, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On unfounded report that amendments to the constitution will be disapproved in Washington

[Released on July 27, 1939]

There is not the slightest foundation to the report that amendments to the Constitution will be disapproved in Washington.

In the first place, the President has never advanced any information as to the action he would take regarding any contemplated measure by the Philippine Government, even in those cases where under the law he has the power of intervention until the measure has been approved by the Legislature and is actually before him; and there is no reason to assume that the President will deviate from this course of action which is not only wise and proper but is in fact the legal procedure.

In the second place, no one knows as yet what the National Assembly will finally decide to do in this matter of proposing amendments to the Constitution—and it should be borne in mind that the Assembly alone has the power to initiate action regarding amendments to the Constitution.

In the third place, it is reasonable to assume that the President of the United States will allow the Filipino people complete freedom of action in the matter of amending their Constitution so long as the amendments do not violate fundamental principles of democracy and/or justice. In granting to the Filipino people the right to adopt their own Constitution, the United States has left to them the choice of the kind of constitution they want to have so long as it provides for a republican form of government.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Work of Floor Leader Quintin Paredes on Passage of Philippine Bill, August 1, 1939

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
On Work of Floor Leader Quintin Paredes on Passage of Philippine Bill

[Released on August 1, 1939]

Floor Leader Quintin Paredes has given me a very satisfactory report of the situation as he found it in Washington.

It will be recalled that when Floor Leader Paredes left Washington, the Philippine bill has already been reported out of the Committee of Insular Affairs and we had assurances that Congress would approve it this session. This is the reason why we asked the Floor Leader to come back so that he might be here and discuss with us the calling of a special session of the National Assembly to consider the amendments to the Constitution that may have to be adopted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the new Philippine Bill.

Floor Leader Paredes should be congratulated for the passage of this bill. From the very beginning, he took part in every important action taken in connection with it. He was the Resident Commissioner when negotiations were started for the appointment of the Joint Preparatory Committee and, as ex-officio member of the Committee, he took part in these negotiations. Then he became member of the Philippine Mission headed by Vice-President Osmeña and was in Washington at the critical time when new amendments were being discussed. He will go down in history prominently connected with this very important piece of legislation.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on Inauguration of Radio-Telephone Service between Manila and Hongkong,
August 15, 1939**

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**INAUGURATION OF RADIO-TELEPHONE SERVICE BETWEEN
MANILA AND HONGKONG**

[Released to the Press on August 15, 1939]

On the occasion of the inauguration of the radio-telephone service between Manila and Hongkong on August 15, His Excellency, the President, had a short conversation with His Excellency, the Governor-General of Hongkong, from his office at the Malacañan Palace at 10 a.m.

The text of their conversation follows:

GOVERNOR-GENERAL: Good morning, Mr. President. It gives me much pleasure to renew our acquaintance.

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Good morning. Mr. Governor. I am happy to hear your voice again.

I am gratified that today we are inaugurating a radio-telephone service that will make it easier and speedier for us to communicate with one another. It has been somewhat difficult for the outside world to understand why, while we in the Philippines can talk by radio-telephone with our friends in America and in Europe, we could not do so with those in Hongkong, a close neighbor.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company for its persistent efforts in making possible this new Manila-Hongkong radio-telephone service, and also to express my thanks to the officials of the Hongkong Telephone Company, Limited, without whose wholehearted cooperation this new line would not have been made possible.

In greeting Your Excellency let me express the hope that the establishment of this radio-telephone service, which is a milestone in the progress of Hongkong and Manila, will mark a closer and friendlier relationship between the people of Hongkong and the people of the Philippines.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL: The occasion is, as I am sure you will agree, a specially happy one marking as it does the forging of a new link between the Philippines and the British colony of Hongkong. This radio-telephone service which you and I are helping to inaugurate today stands in my view for at least three different things. It is a witness of the already extensive connections which have been formed between the Philippines and ourselves; it is also a proof of our firm belief that those connections are going to multiply to an extent which requires the setting up of this very convenient form of communication between you and us. Nor is that the end of the matter, for obviously the establishment of a wireless telephone service to the Philippines holds out the promise of quicker and easier communication in the future with the United States of America a very desirable consummation for us.

It is not possible to enumerate in the space of two or three minutes the full list of commercial activities existing in our two territories. Those who will derive benefit from this new service are the banker, the shipowner, the trader, the broker, and a host of others who will be the gainers thereby. Nor will its advantages be confined to the field of commerce, for they will also be felt both in administrative matters and in the social and domestic affairs of the two populations that are today being brought into yet closer touch with one another.

While therefore we, the beneficiaries of the new service, congratulate ourselves, it is only just that the courageous faith and enterprise of Cable and Wireless, Limited, should be acknowledged with deep gratitude and most heartily

commended. With every confidence I wish, on behalf of the colony of Hongkong, the best of luck to this new departure of that far-seeing and public-spirited company. To this I would add my congratulations to the Hongkong Telephone Company for their effective cooperation.

Lastly, my dear Mr. President, I should like to take this opportunity of giving voice to the warm friendship which this colony feels towards our good neighbor, the Philippines. We have a thriving trade with you and many of us go yearly to you for the holiday amenities which your beautiful lands and waters provide so plentifully. And whether our object is pleasure or business, we always find there a friendly welcome and fair treatment. I am confident that this radio-telephone service will make such contacts more easy, more frequent, and more fruitful than ever before; and it gives me great happiness to help in inaugurating it.

Goodbye and good luck.

PRESIDENT QUEZON: Goodbye, Governor.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement of President Quezon on the National Assembly's approval of proposed amendments to the Constitution, September 16, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S APPROVAL OF PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

[Released to the Press on September 16, 1939]

I feel that the National Assembly deserves commendation for having approved the proposed amendments to the Constitution. The amendment providing for the creation of the Senate speaks eloquently of the very high sense of duty of the immense majority of the members of the Assembly who voted for it, for they willingly gave up the great powers now vested in the Assembly in the interest of the public welfare and security. The creation of the Commission on Elections will better safeguard the purity of elections and thus insure the stability of the Philippine Republic.

Although the proposed amendments seem to open the door for my reelection for two years, I wish to state once more not only that I am determined not to be a candidate, but that I would decline nomination if the Nationalist Party should nominate me as a candidate for the presidency. Moreover, I think that I would be ineligible for reelection under the new Constitution.

I am convinced that the coming generations of Filipinos will bless the names of the Assemblymen who voted for the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Statement: President Quezon on Right to Express Personal Opinion on Philippine Question, September 26, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**RIGHT TO EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINION ON PHILIPPINE
QUESTION**

[Released to the Press on September 26, 1939]

The President is proceeding in accordance with the policy embodied in the Tydings-McDuffie Law, that is to say, preparing the Philippines for complete independence in 1946. He was aware that Secretary Aquino would speak of independence before the Rotary Club just as he was informed that Assemblyman Romero would make the speech which he delivered before the National Assembly.

The President feels that everyone has the right to express freely his opinion on such a vital question as the future of the Filipino people, but that it is the duty of the Government of the Commonwealth to take every step necessary to prepare the country for the responsibilities of an independent republic.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on criticizing Government measures without offering constructive suggestions,
September 29, 1939**

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT MEASURES WITHOUT OFFERING
CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS**

[Released to the Press on September 29, 1939]

The Government welcomes criticisms of the measures we are adopting to meet the social and economic problems that are facing the country. We do not claim that what we are doing is the only remedy. Nor do we claim that we are right in every respect. But the Government cannot remain inactive in the face of the problems confronting us and it must do, and does the best it can and knows how. To find fault with what we are doing without suggesting other methods, to criticize without offering suggestions as to what should be done, is worse than useless. We shall not be deterred from carrying out our policies merely because certain persons oppose them. We shall follow another course only when better remedies are offered.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Emergency Measures approved by the National Assembly, September 30, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**EMERGENCY MEASURES APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

[Released to the Press on September 30, 1939]

The National Assembly should be congratulated for the emergency and other measures which it has approved in its last special session.

The legislative branch has given the Executive sufficient power and authority to safeguard the interests of our people and the neutrality of the Philippines.

I hope no one will attempt to make profits out of the miseries that the war is inflicting upon belligerents as well as upon neutrals.

The Government will deal severely with those who would contravene the rules and regulations which we shall issue to protect the people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Creation of Emergency Control Board, October 10, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

CREATION OF EMERGENCY CONTROL BOARD

[Released to the Press on October 10, 1939]

The Government feels deep concern over the unjustified increase in the prices of commodities which constitute prime necessities of life and it earnestly hopes that the merchants will cooperate with the Government in its effort to lower these prices to reasonable levels. There is no desire on the part of the Government to deprive the merchants of their legitimate profits; but at the same time, it expects that the merchants will take into consideration the interest of the public.

In pursuance of the law passed by the National Assembly in its last special session, there is a plan of fixing maximum prices both for wholesale and retail business in Manila as well as in the provinces. The Emergency Control Board has appointed a technical committee to study this question, presided over by Director Cornelio Balmaceda of the Bureau of Commerce. Mr. Benito Razon is the Executive Officer of the Board. Merchants who are willing to offer suggestions are invited to present their views either to Mr. Balmaceda or to Mr. Razon at the offices of the National Economic Council in the Metropolitan Water District Building. If it should be necessary, in order to make the control of prices effective, the Government itself will import direct those articles of prime necessity that are generally consumed in the country.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Public improvements in Manila that were undertaken by the National Government since 1935, October 18, 1939 PRESS STATEMENT

ON

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN MANILA THAT WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SINCE 1935

[Released to the Press on October 18, 1939]

Public improvements in the City of Manila, which have been undertaken since the establishment of the Commonwealth Government, have reached the total amount of P27,262,857.81 up to last June 30. Of this huge sum the National Government spent more than P21,000,000, while the City of Manila appropriated P3,000,000, and the Metropolitan Water District contributed over P2,700,000.

The main public projects constructed during this period are government buildings, particularly those composing the government center, like the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Department of Finance buildings, the Customs House, the Bureau of Science wing building, and improvements in Malacañan.

Improvements were also made on Aviles and Santa Mesa Streets, while work on the Dewey Boulevard extension is rapidly progressing. The construction of two city bridges has also been started. When finished a bridge will connect the port areas, and the new Colgante bridge will greatly lighten traffic in Santa Cruz district.

Port improvements undertaken during the period included those of the north harbor and the seaplane basin. The National Government likewise provided appropriations for the new buildings of the Philippine General Hospital and for improving the drainage of Manila with a view to meeting the health and sanitation problems of the city. The Metropolitan Water District spent funds for the construction and improvement of Manila's water supply and sewer system.

The City of Manila spent during this period P893,388 for bridges on national roads and city streets, P3,000,000 for street construction and maintenance, about P300,000 for drainage. For its school buildings and the new city hall, half of which has been completed, appropriation of more than P2,000,000 was spent.

At present all government projects in Manila which have already been started are being completed with the amount appropriated by the National Government for their construction.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on payment of pension or gratuity to Philippine Army Officers separated from the Service, October 30, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**PAYMENT OF PENSION OR GRATUITY TO PHILIPPINE ARMY
OFFICERS SEPARATED FROM THE SERVICE**

[Released to the Press on October 30, 1939]

In order to remove from the public mind any misconception arising from misrepresentation of facts—such as that contained in the article of Judge Mariano H. de Joya, published in the *Tribune* of October 19—regarding the separation of some officers from the Philippine Army, the following is hereby released:

When the Philippine Constabulary became a part of the Philippine Army, a new law, Commonwealth Act No. 190, took into full account the services rendered by officers and enlisted men during their previous connection with the former Philippine Constabulary, and prescribed for the granting of retirement pay to the officer or enlisted man who severs his connection from the Army.

In addition to the above, the National Defense Act, by its section 22 (g) as amended by Act No. 385, has made ample provision for the granting of a gratuity upon separation from the service of officers, including former Constabulary officers who became Army officers, whenever upon recommendation of an Efficiency Board they shall have been recommended to the President of the Philippines for separation from the service for inefficiency.

By virtue of such provisions of law, an officer that may be discharged from the service for inefficiency or for reasons other than his own misconduct, willful failure, the intemperate use of drugs or alcoholic liquor, or vicious or immoral habits, shall be entitled to a gratuity equivalent to one month of his current pay received by him at the time of his separation, multiplied by the number of complete years of service, including his length of service in the Philippine Constabulary. It is undeniable that, instead of getting nothing as claimed by Judge de Joya and notwithstanding the inefficiency of an officer, the law grants him a gratuity commensurate with his term of service, so that his separation may not work hardship on him or on his family. A number of officers, it should be made clear, are to be retired because they have honorably fulfilled the requirements for retirement. They are entitled to monthly pensions or, if preferred, to gratuity in lump sum, as ample reward for their past services. Others will be separated—for the best interest and general efficiency of the military service—because these officers have not come up to the required standard of efficiency, honor, or integrity. To retain them unjustifiably is to be unjust to other officers who are trying their best to measure up to the traditions of the Army. However, no officer shall be separated from the service until his case has been thoroughly investigated and proved that he falls below the Army standard.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Appointments confirmed by Commission on Appointments of National Assembly, November 11, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED BY COMMISSION
ON APPOINTMENTS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

[Released to the Press on November 11, 1939]

The following appointments have been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly:

Hon. Serafin Marabut as Member of the Metropolitan Water District Board, for another term of three years expiring on October 31, 1942; date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Hon. Santiago Artiaga as Provincial Governor of Bukidnon, with compensation at the rate of P6,000 per annum; date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Hon. Pablo Lorenzo as Mayor of the City of Zamboanga, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Hon. Agustin L. Alvarez as Mayor of the City of Davao, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Hon. Nicasio S. Valderrosa as Mayor of the City of Baguio, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Hon. Sergio Bayan as Chairman of the Irrigation Council for a term expiring on February 15, 1942, date of appointment, October 5, 1939;

Hon. Cipriano Unson as Purchasing Agent, date of appointment, September 30, 1939;

Mr. Alberto Mansueto as Chairman of the Board of Tax Appeals of the City of Cebu, date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Valeriano Segura as Member of the Board of Tax Appeals of the City of Cebu, date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Jose S. Leyson as Member of the Board of Tax Appeals of the City of Cebu; date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Vicente Urgello as Member of the Board of Tax Appeals of the City of Cebu, date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Pedro Perez as Register of Deeds of the Province of Misamis Occidental, with compensation at the rate of P1,800 per annum; date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Fabian B. Gomez as Register of Deeds of the Province of Negros Oriental, with compensation at the rate of P1,800 per annum; date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Manuel Gala as Assistant Provincial Fiscal of Tayabas, with compensation at the rate of P2,400 per annum; date of appointment. October 2, 1939;

Mr. Jose L. Abad as First Assistant City Attorney of the City of Cebu, with compensation at the rate of P3,000 per annum; date of appointment, October 2, 1939;

Mr. Manuel Diaz as City Engineer of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Perfecto Palacio as Justice of the Peace of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Jacob Rosenthal as City Assessor of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Vicente Fragrante as Vice-Mayor of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Alejandro Roces, Sr., as Member of the City Council of Quezon City; date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Jose Paez as Member of the City Council of Quezon City. date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Dr. Eusebio D. Aguilar as Member of the City Council of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. A. D. Williams as City Secretary of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Emilio Abello as City Attorney of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Dr. M. C. Icasiano as City Health Officer of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Mr. Pio Pedrosa as City Treasurer of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 12, 1939;

Capt. Tomas B. Morato as Mayor of Quezon City, date of appointment, October 23, 1939;

Mr. Eulalio Causing as Member of the Board of Tax Appeals of the City of Cebu, date of appointment, October 17, 1939;

Mr. Vicente Resurreccion to be Provincial Treasurer of Bataan, vice Mr. Sisenando Silvestre, transferred; and

Hon. Alfredo L. Yatco and Hon. Jose Gil as Members of the Government Service Insurance Board to succeed themselves and to continue for a term of three years from November 19, 1939.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement on Grant of Executive Clemency to Prisoners, November 16, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

GRANT OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY TO PRISONERS

[Released to the Press on November 16, 1939]

On the occasion of the Fourth Anniversary of the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, on November 16, 1939, His Excellency, the President, granted absolute pardon to Prisoner Julian Meneses; conditional pardon to Prisoners Victorino Rodillo, Domingo Ronquillo, Juan Bautista, Marciano Samson, Damaso Castillo, Naili (Moro), and Tasmori (Moro); and released on parole Prisoners Pedro Soriano and Pedro de los Santos.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Statement: President Quezon on appointments of new judges of First Instance and Cadastral Judges,
December 1, 1939**

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW JUDGES OF FIRST INSTANCE
AND CADASTRAL JUDGES**

[Released to the Press on December 1, 1939]

His Excellency, the President, has today appointed the following judges of first instance and cadastral judges with a view to expediting the hearing and disposal of numerous cases now pending in court calendars:

JUDGES OF FIRST INSTANCE

1. Mamerto Roxas, Fourth Judicial District (Manila and Palawan, First Branch).
2. Jose Gutierrez David, Sixth Judicial District (Sorsogon and Masbate).
3. Pablo S. Rivera, Seventh Judicial District (Occidental Negros, First Branch).
4. Arsenio P. Dizon, Seventh Judicial District (Iloilo and Antique, Third Branch).
5. Jose Bernabe, Seventh Judicial District (Capiz and Romblon).
6. Pablo Angeles David (New), Eighth Judicial District (Maasin, Leyte).
7. Vicente Varela, Eighth Judicial District (Bohol).
8. Catalino Buenaventura, Ninth Judicial District (Surigao and Agusan).
9. Froilan Bayona, Ninth Judicial District (Oriental Misamis and Occidental Misamis, Lanao and Bukidnon).
10. Francisco E. Jose, Ninth Judicial District (Zamboanga and Sulu).

JUDGE-AT-LARGE

Antonio E. Cuyugan.

CADASTRAL JUDGES

1. Pio Fajardo
2. Manuel Blanco
3. Emilio Rilloraza
4. Ricardo Summers
5. Meynardo M. Farol
6. Jose P. Veluz
7. Angel S. Gamboa

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Quezon on Conference with Governors and City Mayors, December 7, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

CONFERENCE WITH GOVERNORS AND CITY MAYORS

[Released to the Press on December 7, 1939]

After the luncheon given by His Excellency, the President, this noon at Malacañan Palace in honor of governors and city mayors, a conference was held in which the governors and mayors expressed the opinion that the National Assembly should be requested to amend the law to the effect that the plebiscite on the constitutional amendments be held separately from the election for provincial and municipal officials.

This is deemed necessary in order that the people may be well informed of the nature and scope of these amendments, and so that local issues may not be injected in the consideration of national problems.

The governors and mayors also expressed the opinion that the date for the election of provincial and municipal officials should not be changed in order to maintain the stability of governmental institutions.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Statement of President Quezon on Collection of Special Contribution for Earthquake Victims in Turkey, December 29, 1939

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**COLLECTION OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN TURKEY**

[Released to the Press on December 29, 1939]

Upon being informed of the earthquake which shook three continents and caused terrible destruction in Turkey, His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines, authorized the collection of special contributions for the victims of the catastrophe in the following message issued from his yacht, *Casiana*:

“The people of the Philippines cannot remain indifferent to the terrible suffering of the Turkish people. Our country must render all the help that is within our power to give. I shall authorize the collection of special contributions for the victims of the catastrophe in Turkey.”

Simultaneously President Quezon sent a radiogram to the President of Turkey expressing the Filipino people’s sympathies because of the earthquake disaster which devastated the Turkish nation.

The reply of the Turkish Chief Executive, as translated from French into English, follows:

“His
Manuel
Manila

L.

Excellency
Quezon

“I thank Your Excellency most profoundly for your expression of sincere sympathies on the sad occasion of the recent earthquake disaster.

“The Turkish nation deeply appreciates the friendly act of the people of the Philippines.

“ISMET INONU”

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Statement of President Quezon on the Outbreak of War, December 8, 1941

The zero hour has arrived. I expect every Filipino—man and woman—to do his duty. We have pledged our honor to stand to the last by the United States and we shall not fail her, happen what may.

Statement: President Quezon upon his arrival in Manila from Baguio, December 9, 1941

Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
Upon his arrival in Manila from Baguio

[Released on December 9, 1941]

I am back in Manila after seeing the first enemy planes dropping bombs in Baguio. I am happy that my people are calm and confident. I reiterate my offer of loyalty and determined service to the United States in this hour of trial. I say again that I expect every man and woman to do his or her duty.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1941). Statement: President Quezon upon his arrival in Manila from Baguio. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 40 (24), 4654.

Statement: President Quezon on the Fall of Bataan

Press Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:

On the Fall of Bataan, April 11, 1942

The fall of Bataan closes a chapter in the history of the Filipino people for freedom as heroic, if not the most heroic, that we have ever fought. Side by side with their American comrades, first under the personal leadership of General MacArthur and later of Lieutenant General Wainwright, our forces fought without air support against a foe that had, at all times, absolute command of the air and the seas, and an overwhelming superiority in number of land forces. This fight lasted as long as resistance was humanly possible, for our forces gave up only after they had become exhausted from lack of food and continuous battle. I am proud of the part that the Filipino forces have taken in this epic battle and I am profoundly grateful to the whole army which has thus vindicated honor and right of the Filipino people to become an independent nation. Their country and countrymen will consider every man who took part in this battle as a national hero and will feel undying gratitude for the service they have rendered.

The loss of Bataan has not ended the war in Philippines. Corregidor, the Visayan Islands, and Mindanao are still fighting the enemy and I am certain that all these places will be defended as long as there are means with which to defend them. The Filipino people will stand by and with America and our allies to the bitter end.

Melbourne

April 11, 1942

Statement: President Quezon on Japan's new policy of Anti-semitism, February 18, 1943

Japan's New Policy of Anti-semitism Attacked by President of Philippines

February 18, 1943

Washington (Feb. 17)

President Manuel L. Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth today called Japan's new policy of anti-Semitism a tribute to the patriotism of Jews in the occupied islands. Praising Philippine Jews as "quiet, energetic and productive," he expressed the hope that he would be able to work with them again after the war in accordance with the Philippine principle of religious freedom.

There are between 1,000 and 1,500 Jews in the Philippine Commonwealth. Several hundred came as refugees from Nazi Europe. President Quezon gave some of them land from his personal estate on the Island of Luzon, and took great interest and satisfaction in their progress as farmers. Others went into business.

On January 26, Berlin broadcast the following news items for distribution to German papers: "The Japanese military administration in Manila has issued a stern warning to Jews living in the Philippines. Owing to the lenient and magnanimous attitude of the Japanese authorities, it is stated that the Jews have tried to obtain advantages for themselves and made themselves guilty, not only of black market dealings and profiteering, but also of attempted espionage. In the future the authorities will meet such attempts with drastic measures." The Tokyo and Japanese-controlled Manila bodies echoed this report.

PRAISES LOYALTY OF PHILIPPINE JEWS; SAYS JAPAN IS APING GERMANY

In his statement today, replying to the Japanese anti-Jewish allegations, President Quezon said: "Translated from the crude tongue of Nazi-Japanese propaganda, these words are a tribute, unintended, to be sure, to the Jewish citizens and residents of the Philippines. They testify to the fact that the Jews are standing loyally and firmly at the side of the other groups in the Philippine population, risking their lives and their goods in opposition to the Japanese invaders. I am proud of this evidence of the rightness of the Philippine principle of religious freedom. It proves that all the religions in my beloved country are helping each other and fighting together in the cause of freedom.

"The people of the Philippines have never been guilty of the barbarous and divisive error of religious bigotry. Ever since the commonwealth was established, the majority of the Filipinos, who are Catholics, have lived peacefully and in friendship with their non-Catholic neighbors – whether Protestant, or Jewish, or Mohammedan, or Pagan. The small number of Jews in the Philippines is a respected section of our population. After Hitler introduced official persecution into Germany, we offered our hospitality to a number of refugees, who came to the Philippines and quickly adjusted themselves to our way of life. These people were quiet, energetic and productive. They have become a welcome and loyal part of the Filipino population.

"Now the Japanese are aping Nazi Germany by manufacturing their own anti-Jewish propaganda and persecution. I am convinced that Tokyo has announced this policy as a cheap way of pleasing the fanatical Nazis who are its allies, and as a trick to destroy the unity of Philippine resistance. The Nazi propaganda machine is undoubtedly exploiting this story to justify its brutal philosophy among those of its own citizens who are beginning to doubt.

"There is a sharp contrast between the principle of equality as practiced by the Filipino people, on the one hand, and the principle of prejudice and discrimination practiced by the Nazis and Japanese, on the other. This contrast marks one more sector in the moral conflict underlying this war. We shall be victorious in this as in every other sector. I look forward to the day when all the peoples of the earth are again able to work together peacefully and fruitfully to build a better world."

Read more: [Japan's New Policy of Anti-semitism Attacked by President of Philippines](#)

Statement: President Quezon in comment on the Pacific War Situation

Statement of President Manuel L. Quezon:
In Comment on the Pacific War Situation

[Released on April 15, 1943]

I am very seriously concerned over reports from the Pacific area that the Japanese are concentrating large forces near Australia and that they have in fact already made several air attacks against Australian defenses greater than ever before.

The whole world knows that my heart is in the Philippines: and I cannot forget that the fate of the Filipino people, who are now under the iron heel of a ruthless enemy, is bound up with the course of the war in the Pacific.

Japan must not be allowed to make further gains. She must not be granted time to devote all her energies to consolidating her position and mastering the immense natural resources now available to her—resources even greater than those available to Hitler. To give Japan the chance to do these things would mean very serious risks for the United Nations and would raise tremendously the price of her ultimate defeat—in lives and in sacrifices.

I hope, therefore, that steps will be taken—and taken immediately—to strengthen our arms in the Pacific, at least enough to stop Japan in her tracks.

It is true that, in waging this global war, many coldblooded decisions must be made. There have been, and no doubt will continue to be, times when whole battlefronts and even whole nations will be considered temporarily expendable in order to win the final victory. But it is impossible for me to conceive that the entire Far East is expendable.

Source: **New York Public Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). Statement: President Quezon in Comment on the Pacific War Situation. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 15.

Statement: President Laurel on the Seventy-Second Anniversary of the martyrdom of Fathers Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora, February 17, 1944

‘An Unequal Fight for Racial Vindication’

Statement on the Seventy-Second Anniversary of the martyrdom of Fathers Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora, Manila, February 17, 1944:

Filipino churchmen today in particular and their countrymen at large face an increasing challenge in the memory of the three martyred priests of Bagumbayan: Fathers Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora. The three priests blazed the way for responsible nationalism and racial self-respect. They set a tradition and a standard of moral leadership for Filipino leaders of the cloth to go by in sharing the responsibilities of nation-building under the young Republic.

Seventy-two years ago today, the three Filipino priests quietly met their common destiny at Bagumbayan Field. They suffered martyrdom on the garrote, for daring to voice the grievances of the Filipino people against the corruption and the injustice of certain civil and ecclesiastical authorities. Especially did they incur their hatred for advocating the secularization of the clergy in this country.

There was an unequal fight for racial vindication. Their efforts threatened the supremacy of obscurantism in this country. And, in their confusion and fear, their enemies sought wildly for means to destroy the obstacles to the continuation of the established order. Blindly and without regard for justice and truth, they pinned the guilt of the Cavite Revolt on Fathers Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora. Happily for its good name, the church itself upheld their innocence.

Today the Filipino people cherish their memory, as their posterity will continue to do so, in reverence of the spirit of freedom of the will to determine their own destiny, implicit in the martyrdom of Fathers Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora. Suppressed, it may smolder for a time—only to flare out again with greater brilliance and vigor. Hardly were the bodies of the three martyr-priests cold in their graves, when Rizal’s voice, more insistent and more compelling, flung the challenge against injustice, tyranny and corruption. And then was heard the tramp of the Katipunan, putting to rout the combined forces of oppression and obscurantism.

We are the heirs of the blessings for which the blood of such men as Burgos, Gomez and Zamora was offered freely as an earnest of the dignity and beauty of the life of subsequent generations. It is for us to keep the light of their sacrifice forever aflame. We should guard it with zeal, protect it with our very lives, lest our right to determine our destiny be snatched from our hands again.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Memorandum of the Auditor of the General Auditing Office to President Quezon, July 24, 1936

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL AUDITING OFFICE
MANILA

July 24, 1936

Memorandum for the President:

In compliance with Your Excellency's request, I have in honor to inform you that the appropriation for the National Assembly for clerks of the members thereof is being paid directly to the clerks appointed by the members and not the members themselves. There is no definite number of clerks employed by each member. Some have only one while others employ even more than 10, but the average number is about 5 clerks for each member. This Office has found nothing irregular in the disbursement of this appropriation since the employees themselves, after having rendered the service, receive their salaries direct from the Government.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) J. HERNANDEZ
Auditor General

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Memorandum of President Quezon on interspersion of small landholdings between large areas of public land applied for for pasture purposes, July 29, 1936

**Memorandum
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Interspersion of Small Landholdings between Large Areas of Public Land applied for Pasture Purposes**

[Delivered on July 29, 1936]

Memorandum
The
The Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce:

for—
Honorable

His Excellency, the President, desires that, as a matter of policy, small landholdings be interspersed between large areas of public land which are applied for pasture purposes either under the Forest Law or the Public Land Law. If a parcel of land applied for for pasture purposes adjoins vacant lands, such adjacent public lands should be reserved for disposition only in the form of small parcels. In case the land applied for for pasture abuts upon another tract of land already applied for for the same purpose, a certain portion of the land newly applied for and immediately contiguous to the latter should likewise be reserved for disposition only in the form of small landholdings. The reason for following such a policy is to prevent the pasture permittees or lessees from extending their holdings, thereby avoiding the clandestine occupation of big areas of public land in violation of the area requirements of the Public Land Law and the Forest Law and also to provide available areas for small pasture landholders.

By direction of the President:

(Sgd.) JORGE B. VARGAS
Secretary to the President

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Conference Notes of President Quezon, August 14, 1936

PRESS CONFERENCE NOTES

AUGUST 14, 1936

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning, gentlemen. Please be seated. Well, I am ready for your questions.

THE TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

THE PRESS. Mr. President, have you any special plan for your proposed trip to the United States?

THE PRESIDENT. Nothing.

THE PRESS. Have you fixed the date for your trip, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I have none for my trip because out of ninety per cent of every hundred trips that I make, the original plan is always changed. (Laughter) So, if I change my plan, that will be news.

THE PRESS. Are you planning to cross the Pacific, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes.

TAGAYTAY RIDGE

THE PRESS. Mr. President, can you tell us something about the Tagaytay ridge? Do you have any plan of transferring the capitol of the government to Tagaytay?

THE PRESIDENT. There is no such idea to transfer the capital. In the first place, that is not a very large ridge, but I have a plan of transferring the capital there as has been recommended by the Bureau of Public Works that it would be advantageous to create a new city there, and I understand this plan of improving Tagaytay had been adopted by the Government, at least by the Department of public Works long before I became President. One day, when I went to Liang, I found that they were building a road from the crossing of that road, that is, from Mendez-Nuñez to Silang and, I called one of those men. "What are you doing?", I asked. "We are building the road to Manila through Silang," was the answer. That is the road where I used to pass to go to Tagaytay. I said: "You stop that and if the Bureau of Public Works orders you to go ahead with the work, tell them that I gave you instruction to stop it." I thought then that it was one of the unnecessary roads we were building, so two months thereafter, Williams asked me if I gave orders to stop the building of the road, and I answered him, "yes."

"Why Mr. President," he said, "that is a very important road because if this road will be improved, it will make Tagaytay accessible to Manila, and Tagaytay is one of the nicest places in the Philippines. Tagaytay is much cooler, three degrees cooler than Manila, and it is never warm there." Well, I said to him that I would go one day with him there, and I went.

I went to Tagaytay with Williams, it was a very hot day, and we started at ten o'clock in the morning. My idea was to arrive there before noon because it is only an hour's ride from Manila, it was last May, and when I left Manila I was perspiring all the way through and upon my arrival I walked through the ridge and when I came back to my car. I found that my perspiration had already dried up. It was so nice and cool, and I asked if there was water. They told me that there was sufficient water for a population of 15,000, and if the population should increase, still they would have enough water. As I have said, I walked through the ridge, and I found it to be the most beautiful place in the Philippines. If the government is going to spend money in building this road, we better think of something big here. I am planning to talk to the owners of the land and ask them if they will give the land free to the government where streets have to be built and if they are going to sell it at a very low price, every piece of land that may be needed for

public purposes. If they will, we will go ahead with it; otherwise, we will just stop. My idea will be to create a city there, chartered city, like Baguio and have Arellano prepare a plan for the city and take advantage of every place that is worth taking advantage of for people to enjoy the beauties of nature. From Tagaytay, you can see Laguna de Bay and the China Sea. You can see Marikina very well. The sunset is marvelous, and when you look toward the lake, you behold the most glorious sight of the place. I want to have the Manila Hotel a branch there, a golf court, a place for a national building, a fine park, etc. In other words, I should like to build a modern city there and if that is done, we will have the busy people in Manila, at least, to spend their week ends. When the road is finished, it will be fine and what improvements we could not make in Baguio, we will make here. The busy people cannot make to Baguio, as often as they want to because of the distance. If they go, they go occasionally, and if they go, they have to abandon their work, which is not the case when they go to Tagaytay for you can reach the place or return to Manila in an hour. If you leave the place at 7, you will arrive in the office at 8. In other words, the people who have business in Manila can spend their week ends in Tagaytay. Another advantage Tagaytay has over Baguio is that Tagaytay is within reach of the people of the middle class who can take advantage to take their vacation in Tagaytay, which they cannot do in Baguio. So we are studying now this matter. I am not going to do anything until we have secured the land at a very low price for public use, like golf court, hotel, roads, parks for the city, school sites, municipal buildings, etc.

THE PRESS. Will there be a government building like offices of the government?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I do not know. I should like to have the land, and in case the Assembly cares to build their Offices there, why, they can do it. They can hold sessions there too — we could have the Legislative Building transferred to Tagaytay, we could have a branch of the University there. I have always found out that the University of the Philippines has been located where it should not be located — in the center of this metropolitan city. The boys are exposed to all kinds of temptations and all sorts of things. Tagaytay is a place where the boys would have a fine climate and where they will have no occasion for going to places that are not the places for young people to go whose health might be affected, and I think that with the exception of the college of Medicine, the whole University may be taken there. The only question is the expense. But Dr. Bocobo suggested to me that if the National Government could use for its offices the buildings of the University, instead of building the offices of the government we could do it. If they could use the building of the University it would be good because the people would not have to go from one place to another. I do not know whether it is favorable or not. I have not gone as far as that.

We are going to prepare Tagaytay as a place for tourists, as a place for business men living in Manila and as a place for the middle class who want to go for a change as there is a difference in climate between Manila and that place. That is the most important use of the place for tourists once the road is made, and I do not believe that any person who comes to Manila does not go to Tagaytay.

THE PRESS. Will Tagaytay be a good place for sightseeing to tourists?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, but I am not doing anything in that connection until we build hotels. That, in my opinion, is the first thing. We have to advertise the Philippines, and people who come here will see, not only the place inside, but also see places outside. As it is now, we do not have good hotels to go to and people do not live on sceneries alone; they also live on bread. My own experience as a traveler is that unless I had a good bed and place to stay, by Gosh! I would leave the place immediately with anger and disappointment. But we have very few places in the Philippines that can be developed for tourists' purposes. One is Tagaytay, and in Mindanao there are also several places. Mindanao is a wonderful place.

THE PRESS. Do you not think that if Tagaytay is purchased and the government build hotels so that the Manila will have a branch there, it will not discourage private capital?

THE PRESIDENT. No, unless they build the hotels on the roads. Nobody seems to be interested in the business of building hotels; I am not interested in building hotels at all. Of course, the government has made lots of investments, but if anybody should offer to buy Manila Hotel for 500,000, I would let it go.

ANOMALIES IN THE ARMY

THE PRESS. Has Assemblymen Oppus brought to your attention the alleged anomalies in purchasing supplies for the Philippine Army?

THE PRESIDENT. No, nobody has brought then to my attention except the newspapers, and I tell you it is going to be a very strange thing if anything that appears in the newspapers should be true and of which I know nothing about. I do not need Oppus to tell it to me because I would have known it even without anyone telling it to me.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

THE PRESS. Is the government taking a hand in the preparation for the arrival of the delegates to the Eucharistic Congress?

THE PRESIDENT. No, sir.

MINDANAO

THE PRESS. Some time ago, in our discussion of the Davao situation, you said that you would study and perhaps you would recommend it to the Legislature. Is that in line in this period of the Legislature?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, have you not read my message about Davao? That settles the question. I said everything about it in that message of mine to the National Assembly.

THE PRESS. But you said something about constructing a railroad line there, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. As a matter of fact, we are doing it. There are many people working there now and they are going ahead with that road working from three different provinces. We are gaining time in that way. They are going to meet, that is, we have started from three different places, so as to accelerate the work, and I expect to make an automobile trip next June from Davao to Cagayan.

THE PRESS. I think the District Engineer is sending many men to work on the road.

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, many of those fellows will remain as settlers there. You know what I am going to do is this. I will have the Bureau of Lands survey all the lands along the roads; we would not permit the people to take land except at a distance of 60 meters on either side of the road. We are reserving the land beyond that. The land connecting with that is being subdivided for homesteaders. The homesteads will be long so that the front of the homestead will be toward the road and will not be very wide. The idea is to give to as many people as possible the opportunity to own land. Then next to that is the land that we are reserving for the corporations to take. In other words, we do not give the roads to corporations and we are reserving lands for roads that will permit the owners of the public lands that are beyond to take their products to the main road. We are not going to permit discrimination of any sort as has been done in the past, and we are going to give preference to the men who have been working on the road, to men from other provinces who are coming there with a little capital to buy carabaos and implements and settle there.

THE PRESS. Where will you use this 60 meters, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. In case we want to extend the road and plant trees along the roads. You see, the Philippines is a hot country and if every road is provided with trees, people walk along the side road. We have lost a lot of money, I mean, it is going to cost the government a lot of money to reserve lands sufficient for the roads to be widened. I think that 50 years from now we shall have enough roads. I think 60 meters is enough for roads, for we may be travelling in airplanes; perhaps even in going to the assembly we may be travelling on the air and the accident will be on the air.

ANOMALIES IN THE ARMY

THE PRESS. Mr. President, In connection with the anomalies in the purchase of army supplies, has Assemblyman Oppus reported to you about it?

THE PRESIDENT. I do not know anything about it. As I have said, I can only say that I am not informed about it. Well, I am going to keep it not for some of these people because I believe that that matter should have been brought to my attention. They are making the investigation, and I am not placing any obstacle in that, that is, any investigation that the National Assembly may care to make along that line will be welcome, but the Chief Executive must be informed first because it is disrespectful on their part – what they are doing now. Of course, I want to make the investigation when there is ground for it. I think the charge is that the army has bought several revolvers at a wary high price. What did they buy?

THE PRESS. Revolvers, beds, etc. They said that in ease of beds costing P12 each offered by one was preferred to beds at P7 of the same material.

THE PRESIDENT. If that be true, the man who accepted the bid will have to go to jail. Beds of the material selling at P12 was preferred to beds costing P7 each, why, that means an increase of the population of the laity. You see what we are doing in the Army is this: we have bought guns for the Army and we have saved several million pesos out of this. In the end, when we have bought the rifles that we need, we would save from 15 to 20 million pesos. In the purchase that we have already made, we have saved already 3 million pesos.

THE PRESS. Did those savings comes from the purchase of rifles only, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, before we bought rifles at from \$30 to \$45, now we buy them at from \$3 to \$8. And we are making a lot of those purchases.

THE PRESS. Are you at liberty to disclose whether these rifles are good?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, and all I know is that they are American arms.

THE PRESS. Can you tell us the shipment of these rifles?

THE PRESIDENT. I think they are around 50,000.

THE PRESS. Has the government taken any step in purchasing artillery of heavy arm?

THE PRESIDENT. We are going to buy some of those.

EXEMPTION OF DONATIONS FROM TAXES

THE PRESS. What that do you think of the measure now before the Assembly regarding the place that property donated to be charitable and religious institutions be exempted from the payment of inheritance tax?

THE PRESIDENT. I am against the exemption, for this reason. The government, at least, this government, is spending money for educational purposes, for charitable institutions and if that is the case, why should there be exemption when the donation is intended for a charitable purpose, why should it be exempted from the payment of taxes when the government is also doing that work?

THE PRESS. How has this tax exemption gone thus far?

THE PRESIDENT. I understand there is no exemption, and of course, there was no exemption. I still prefer that the exemption be stricken off. I understand there is no exemption in any of those things. Well, the most charitable institution is the government any way.

PUBLIC WORKS

THE PRESS. Mr. President, have you approved the hydraulic plan in Infanta, Tayabas?

THE PRESIDENT. I do not know anything about it.

THE PRESS. But there is a bill presented before the National Assembly

RELEASE OF NEWS

THE PRESIDENT. It is not surprising that notice of this sort was published before the President should know it. But I am criticizing my own people and I am going to make it hot for some of them. For instance, the Herald published the story the other day with this headline: "THE SURVEY BOARD IS TALKING THROUGH ITS HAT. THE ROAD BOARD SAYS SOMETHING." I have not seen the report, but a Herald reporter tried to communicate it to the chairman of this Board. Why, this was printed before I saw it. It is an official discourtesy that the report la published before it is submitted to the president. It is an official discourtesy. Of course, I do not blame the reporter for publishing it for if I were the reporter, I would steal the news if I could, but in that case, I understand the report was given out before it was submitted to me. When communications are addressed to the President, the president is the only one that can give then to the press. The other party has no right to give it. Nobody has the right to tell to the press, anything about the conversation had between the President and another person, but what happens Is that the minute they leave me, everybody knows what it is about.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

I understand that publication which appeared in the Bulletin was bases on an information given by a member of the House. Well, the information given by that member of the House was not correct. I do not mind telling you, gentlemen, what happened there, I have an understanding with the High Commissioner that whenever I wish to make use of his office I am free to call, which I think is very nice and gracious for the High Commissioner to do. And in view of that, on more than one occasion, I have asked Mr. Jones to go over a certain matter that has some bearing on financial aspect, and to let me know his views about it. Well Mr. Jones never expressed any views whenever I asked him to give a little memorandum expressing his arguments in favor of this; he does not say he is against this because it is against a certain precedent, etc. That is the way he does things, even though I have asked him to give me his views. Now, in this particular case, I have a project for the issuance of seven million peso bonds and I asked Mr. Jones that he personally go over that and let me know what he thinks about it. Well, Mr. Jones Just wrote down the argument pro and con, the good side and the bad side, but he expressed no opinion. Well, one day the Chairman of the Public Works of the House, Mr. Cuenco, came to see me and he was accompanied by another member, no, he was Mr. Marabut. He asked me if I were going to recommend to the National Assembly a bill authorizing the issuance of seven million peso bonds. I said I was not sure yet because I was studying the memorandum Mr. Jones had given me. Well he left me. Now, about 20 minutes later, Nazario asked me, "Mr. President, is it true that the office of the High Commissioner objects to the issuance of the seven million peso bonds?" I answered, no don't print that because it is full of dynamite." Then I said, "call Vargas and have him telephone all the newspapers not to print it because it is full of dynamite." Nazario told me that it was not necessary because there was nobody besides him that knew about that. "I am the only one who knows that, Mr. President." Evidently, that statement of Nazario that nobody was given this news came true and I forgot all about it. Monday morning, as usual, at give o'clock, I walked around the building. I had a terrible headache. Evidently I got an indigestion from Calauang. I went to my room. I got the Bulletin and I saw there this news. I immediately got out of my bed with fever and all, and I got my pen and I myself wrote my statement. I felt very bad about it; I know that Mr. Jones would give his own statement. After all, he was the most affected about that news. I do not know how Cuenco stated the matter, but I have an idea. The trouble about these reporters is this. I suppose Cueneo told Nazario that the president does not know whether he is going to issue the bonds because there is some doubt about it after

my consultation with Jones. As I have said, I knew what was going to be the reaction to the news because I said that that is charged with dynamite. Cuenco might have understood I was hesitating because the High Commissioner was objecting. As a matter of fact, Williams thought that Jones didn't get you. He came to me with this complaint, "I thought, Mr. President, Jones didn't get you. I asked him, why, and he answered: "Because here, from the beginning to the end, he has not expressed anything." I told Williams that Mr. Jones does not express an opinion; he just calls attention to arguments in favor of this against that, etc. He is adopting a very wise and conservative policy. The papers like "The Philippines Herald" and "The Tribune" to which I am thankful, did not take notice of the fact, they just presumed it. But the editorial of the Bulletin and, perhaps, it is well that it did happen because I hope that because it happened, it will never happen again.

THE PRESS. But Mr. President, the use of the word "mischievous" in your statement is the reason for writing that editorial.

THE PRESIDENT. Now, Mr. Smith, no one has the right to say of this government in that language, and I am not going to permit that such language be used as long as I am the head of this government, when you said the High Commissioner "put thumbs down." The government of the Commonwealth deserves to be respected. When you say "Put thumbs down", you were treating the government of the Commonwealth as government run by irresponsible kids. You could just as well say that the High commissioner has some objection or doubts the wisdom of the issuance of this bond. But when you speak of that government as irresponsible, by Gosh! You....

Let me tell you that I sent for Romulo for that statement, and like any newspaperman he likes to shorten that and since I was sick, he took the liberty of shortening the statement. I ordered that before publishing the statement, I would have to see the correction made by Romulo; and before 12 o' clock I asked Vargas for it, and he brought the copy with the correction. I tell you I have deliberately put every word in that statement and that was prepared by me. I resented the editorial; I am resenting it still. You can see how I have reacted to this. I think the Government of the Commonwealth deserves some courtesy from the people of this country and of every other country. We are trying to do our best to make this government worthy of the respect of civilized and progressive peoples of the world. I am working like a dog, and if somebody will take the advantage of every opportunity to criticize and treat this government as if it were run by irresponsible kids, my Gosh! I would not tolerate it.

THE PRESS. Your reaction, Mr. President, clarifies your stand when you said that because it did happen, it might not happen in the future.

THE PRESIDENT. My statement clarifies the position of everybody because that statement is in accordance with law. I myself have a copy of the Tydings-McDuffie Law; I have to keep it in my own hand. Do you know how much temperature I had then? I had 103. It was very important news considering the fact that it affects the establishment of the Government of the Commonwealth. It appeared that there was an agreement between the Government of the Commonwealth and the High Commissioner,—you see the High Commissioner has the right to express an opinion, of course, at least in the spirit of helpfulness. The position of High Commissioner has been created by congress, not with any idea of embarrassing the Government of the Commonwealth, but with the idea of being helpful to the Government of the Commonwealth, and, of course, to safeguard the interest of the United States who is the sovereign power. Well, the High Commissioner has three rights which, I think, he has in his article, expressed very well. The Commissioner has the right to be consulted, the right to advise and the right to warn. This is a joint responsibility in a way with the American people. The success of the government will be a credit to America as well as to the Philippines. If we fail here, it will be a discredit to the Philippines as well as to the United States if the High Commissioner, after I have consulted him, can advising anything well and good; but after getting his opinion in those matters within his jurisdiction, I still reserve the right to act against his advice, if I think that should do it. But he knows that after getting his opinion, we decide otherwise, which may not be to the interest of the government or of the people, he could say: "Mr. President, I do not want to interfere with this case. That is your privilege, but as well-wisher of this government, may I make some suggestions?" "Why certainly," I would answer. Then he can continue saying, "It is true that what you intend to do is all right, but it might have this effect, etc." Then I would answer, "My Gosh, you are right; thank; you very much. It is good you have called my attention to it for I would have simply overlooked it."

(Continuing)... The President can on a few specific cases such as his power to annul certain laws. The purpose of the law is to give power to the Government of the Commonwealth and by virtue of that power assume responsibility for what is going on here. Therefore, I have to act when it is a matter of policy by issuing executive orders.

THE PRESS. President, do you have a right to a hearing?

THE PRESIDENT. certainly.

THE PRESS. Is it not the High Commissioner that makes the report direct to the President of the United States?

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT. Yes. As I have already said there are only few instances where the president can annul a certain law. Supposing a law was passed which is contrary to the constitution of the United States, supposing we pass a law impairing the performance of a contract. In that case the President may suspend the enforcement of the act.

THE PRESS. Mr. President, will it not affect the performance of some important public works to be done if there is no meeting of the minds?

THE PRESIDENT. I do not think so. In the case of public works, the President can suspend that. I will give you an example. Suppose the Bureau of Public Works enters into a contract for the building of a palace for the Chief Executive worth 50 million pesos, the President can suspend that because the Government of the Commonwealth has no money to build that palace for 50 million pesos, the President can suspend the construction of that palace; we have the right to do that work. The same thing is true if we have a contract to build a one million peso palace. The President could not suspend that, but if we sign a contract with the contractor and the President knows that the contractor will build a palace, when it comes to the payment and the government pay, the president can suspend that work. Well, gentlemen, do you have any more question to ask me?

THE PRESS. Mr. President, in the name of the morning papers, I would suggest that we hold our conference in the afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT. You know the reason why we have chosen Friday morning for holding our conference, it is because we are supposed to discuss matters which affect the interest of the representatives of foreign papers. It is said that the best time for holding the conference in order that the news may be printed in the largest number of papers is on Friday; at least that is what I have been told. Now, gentlemen, it is up to you to choose the hour and the day you want to hold our conference. As for me, I can meet you any day, except Saturday and Sunday because I think you are more inclined to enjoy a little vacation on those days. So just fix the day among yourselves.

THE PRESS. Mr. President, I wish to suggest that we hold our conference in the morning and the following Friday in the afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT. I think that will be all right. Good-bye, and thank you gentlemen.

Source: Quezon Family Collections

Conference with Members of the National Assembly, September 26, 1936

CONFERENCE WITH MEMBERS
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 26, 1936

10:55 A. M.

MR. OSIAS. Mr. Speaker, may I have the floor with the consent of the President?

THE SPEAKER. Si, señor.

MR. OSIAS. I just wish to inform His Excellency that I was not present when the resolution was approved, nor did I take part in the discussion, but merely heard certain observations from our recognized Leader. As a humble member of the National Assembly, I should like to say, knowing as I very well do know of my own colleagues, this isolated case did not in any way reflect the views of the Assembly, either collectively or individually, with respect to their attitude toward the Chief Executive. I realize the seriousness of the question and how fundamental it is, and that is one reason why I should like to say, to state in this juncture, because I myself may have occasion to propose amendments that will affect certain offices and public functionaries. But what I should like to say before my colleagues and before the President is that when I do so, I do not do it with a view to present a challenge to the Executive and I do not give anybody else or any of the Assembly

THE PRESIDENT. I should like the members of the national Assembly to understand that in this particular case, I consider that an attack upon the prerogatives of the Chief Executive, because the proposed amendment was to suppress the appropriation for the Director of Posts, not based upon any theory, that the position was unnecessary, that the economy accomplished, if the amendment is passed, is in the interest of public service. It was based upon a statement publicly made that the suppression of the appropriation was in order to punish an executive officer of this government for some alleged discourtesy to the members of the Assembly. So I just went to say this to the Assemblymen of La Union (Mr. Osias), or to any member of the Assembly, so that they will not have the idea that any amendment, even the suppression of the position, that I will consider as acts against the prerogatives of the Chief Executive.

MR. OSIAS. I want to state that I am happy for no other reason than to hear such statement from the President, that I would like to continue in our labors in the confident belief that when I go after a certain item in the budget or after a certain person in this government, it is not with the intention of personally or officially offending the Chief Executive, nor is it for the purpose of challenging the prerogatives with which the President is constitutionally clothed. I rose because I have clearly understood, that in both branches of the government that when any member or group of members of the National Assembly seek to discuss certain actions that may affect a member of the executive branch of the government or even a member of the executive family of the President, that it is done in the interest of the whole, of which the National Assembly is a part. I think, Mr. Speaker, every Assemblymen feels a joint responsibility with the President in the success of this joint enterprise. It is a common responsibility and common obligation before the country and before the world, but I do not like to have it understood that the manifestations of the President mean that an executive official hereafter is going to wear a sort of placard upon his person, a sort of "Noli Me Tangere." I think the President is entitled to call the attention of any member of the Assembly to the spirit of true coalition,—if he be in error—and I doubt that that in the case with our colleagues here who voted in favor of the resolution when they acted as they did.

THE PRESIDENT. What do you mean when you say that the members of the National Assembly voted as they did, gentlemen from La Union?Mr.

MR. OSIAS. I said "voted as they did," Mr. President, because there was not the slightest thought in the whole discussion, even in the highest heat of its discussion. While I was there and while it was agreed at a caucus that they were not taking a step that was in any way offensive to the Chief Executive, it is precisely of our confidence in him that a member of the committee was appointed that this sentiment may be brought to your attention.

THE PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from La Union will permit (Mr. Osias), the procedure itself is already an attack on the prerogatives of the Chief Executive because while the Assembly is authorized and any member of the Assembly is perfectly authorized-under the law and the Constitutions propose amendments to the Appropriation Bill, to strike out any item of the appropriation when the reason for that is the desire of the Assembly to demand from the Chief Executive that a certain official of the government be removed from office, the Assembly is not exercising constitutional precaution and the mere fact that the amendment created for the appointment of a committee to tell the Chief Executive the wishes of the Assembly already proved the fallacy of the amendment, because it was an amendment intended through an unconstitutional procedure to remove an official of the Executive Department of the government from his office, because I was going to be asked that Ruiz be removed or be punished. If the Assembly has some complaint against a certain official of the government,— I just want to say that every time an amendment is presented to suppress a position or to reduce an appropriation, not from the point of view of economy but of punishing an official of the government, or proposing that his position be abolished, I will consider that an unconstitutional way of doing it.

MR. OSIAS. Mr. President, the very fact that that action was not taken in a formal session of the Assembly but it was taken in a manner, let us say, with the family circle, is proof positive that the members of the Assembly were animated by no other than by the spirit of cooperation and in the consciousness that they are bearing with the chief Executive.

THE PRESIDENT. My answer, Mr. Speaker, in this is, if that amendment has not been presented on the floor of the house; if the reasons for the amendment were not published as agreed in a caucus held on the floor of the Assembly and a committee was appointed to see me, I would have looked this matter from a different angle. And even if the amendment was presented before in a caucus, or if the amendment had been withdrawn so that the question had been brought to me either independently or as the official action of the Assembly, I might have viewed it from another point of view. But bearing in mind the amendment was presented for the suppression of that item and before a vote was taken and while the amendment was pending, a resolution was adopted asking me to remove Director Ruiz, how else can I interpret that resolution except that if I do not remove Director Ruiz, the position would be abolished in the appropriation? That involves a threat; that is the only way I interpret that.

MR. OSIAS. Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to proceed further, I think if the matter is looked at from one point of view and from the different angle of those in the Assembly, may it not be interpreted that the steps taken was somewhat akin to the fact that every time that the President or a member of his family as permitted by the constitution could come to the Assembly or before a caucus, I trust that it is the same spirit that the delegation from the assembly and their family may be received. It happened so suddenly—perhaps we did not adopt the right procedure—, but the fact that we went immediately in executive session following the suspension of a formal session of the Assembly is, in itself, self-evident that the members thereof saw the gravity of the situation and, therefore, they preferred to talk the matter over among themselves, not when the Assembly was in session, but in caucus, when the Assembly was not in a formal session.

Now, to conclude, Mr. Speaker, may I say, although I have not been the object of discourtesy on my part as a member, but for the sake of strict policy of the government, the time has come when together we must be doing something to uphold the dignity and the prestige of the members of the Assembly. These things comes in succession with what the papers publicized, either wrongly or rightly, of the occurrence in Baguio—all this if they are permitted to continue, cannot but result in undermining the confidence of the people in the functionaries of the government and the institutions of the government. I plead, Mr. Speaker, that the President do not interpret this act of ours as a challenge to him personally or to his prerogatives as our chosen leader, and I plead further that he make common cause with the members of this Assembly in their desire to see that in this unicameral system which is in the nature of experimentation in the country, merit the credit and the confidence of the public beginning with the moaners of the official family of the President.

MR. CONFESOR. Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to make some explanation on this matter?

THE SPEAKER. The gentleman from Iloilo (Mr. Confessor) has the floor.

MR. CONFESOR. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to have the status of the caucus explained with the officials of the Assembly when they held that caucus, that is, in relation with certain matters which affect the individual member of the Assembly and the chief Executive as the Leader of the party. In other words, if we passed a resolution in a caucus, what is the status of that resolution? Could a caucus, for example, pass any resolution which is not formal, of course, no official standing, it is not even made a matter of record, could it be taken by the Chief Executive as an official act of the Assembly itself so that in the future, Mr. President, we would guide our action as to your attitude towards the caucus which the members of the assembly may hold from time to time?

THE PRESIDENT. Is that your question?

MR. CONFESOR. Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT. Gentlemen, I am going to answer the Assemblyman from Iloilo (Mr. Confesor), but after I have answered that question, I am going to take my leave because I have not come here to enter into any discussion with anybody. I have come plainly to inform you of my stand on to tell you that my stand is such that bearing in mind all the fateful consequences of a breach between the Assembly and the Chief Executive, I shall not move an inch from that stand. I have carefully considered everything I have said here, I have studied this question thoroughly, I have placed in my hands my conscience and the oath of office that I have taken and, nothing, nothing can make me change the stand that I have already expressed to you. Now, I am going to answer your question.

I prefer not to discuss any further question because, gentlemen, you are going to confuse the terms of the subject at issue, and when the terms of the subject at issue are confused, the discussion is interminable. The best answer that I could give is the attitude you had taken with reference to that caucus—when you held your caucus about your pork barrel. The Chairman on public works came to see me; I had not considered that as an offense; I did not consider that as an attack upon my prerogatives to initiate the budget. Anything that you might do here is perfectly right and legal. The action of the caucus was act official, of course, but in this particular case, the action of the caucus is intimately connected with an act which has taken place upon the floor of the National Assembly, and I cannot look upon the action of the caucus except as an act of the Assembly itself. It is not necessary to clarify further what I have said and as for the courtesies that are due the member of the Assembly. Why, my goodness! No one of you has taken as much at heart the credit, the reputation, and the good name of this nation more than I have done myself, when secretly or openly I have always upheld the dignity and integrity of this Assembly.

As I have just told you a little while ago, in my conference with the members of the cabinet, chiefs and assistant chiefs of bureaus, I instructed them to give the members of the Assembly due respect and consideration. I cited the case of Assemblyman Rama who received from me immediate attention when I got his telegram complaining against a provincial treasurer for disobeying his order. I sent a telegram to said treasurer, asking him to explain why he did not answer the call of Assemblyman Rama. The answer I received was satisfactory, which I transmitted to Assemblyman Rama; but instead of thanking me, Assemblyman Rama insulted me in his telegram. He said, "That is all right if you are satisfied with liars, I am not." My God! that was stated in a telegram which all the employees of the government of Cebu must have read—the kind of telegram addressed to the President. That is terrible, because instead of thanking me for giving him my immediate attention, instead of recognizing and appreciating the immediate action that I had taken on the alleged discourtesy, for I was in Iloilo when I received that telegram, I told Secretary Vargas to write to Assemblyman Rama explaining to him why the explanation of the provincial treasurer of Cebu was satisfactory. Of course, later on, he admitted that he made a mistake. I know Assemblyman Kama did not intend to insult me because that insult, he thought, is not intended for my office, but it is kept on record just the same in my office.

Now, I have no objections to your coming to me if you have something to ask me. You can ask whatever you want. I have suggested that you come to me whenever you have some complaint to make, but I just want to tell you that you have no right to act that way for the purpose of asking for the removal of any official of the government; even in a caucus you ought not to do it. If you find among yourselves that there is an official of the government who is not satisfied with the majority of the members of the Assembly, and I am not speaking of the majority party, let the Speaker or the Floor Leader come to me. If the members of the Assembly are not satisfied with a certain official, just bring the matter officially, and I will order the investigation. Of course, we will have to abide by the result of the investigation. I will not object to ordering an investigation of Ruiz, but don't take action on the floor of the

Assembly and hold caucus for the purpose of removing from office a certain official. I told De la Paz yesterday to tell these men to come to me if they have some complaint against Ruiz. Now Emilio...

MR. CONFESOR. I should like to find out...

MR. DE LA PAZ. The first thing I did on arriving at the session was to tell the floor leader that there had been a conversation between Your Excellency and myself, and the floor leader communicated this to the other Members. For Your Excellency's information, the reason why that amendment was neither passed nor rejected was that I, though I was then unworthily presiding at the session of the Assembly, believed that said amendment, if put to a vote, would be passed, and having received Your Excellency's admonition, I found it necessary to suspend the session.

THE PRESIDENT. I do not believe there is any further need of my staying and I am ready to leave, because I might to a certain extent, curtail the liberty of the Members of the Assembly, hence I believe it will be best if I leave.

MR. CONFESOR. We would like to have Your Excellency enlighten us as to the best manner...

THE PRESIDENT. I have already said all I have to say.

MR. CONFESOR. As the Assembly had not the least intention of raising an issue with the President, why is the President leaving us now?

THE PRESIDENT. In order that you may discuss this matter.

MR. CONFESOR. Being among ourselves here, let us deal with this matter among ourselves. As the President has gone to the trouble, which is quite a condescension, to come here, why would he not enlighten us as to the best manner of straightening out this matter without obstructing the working of the government? We do not want him to leave here with this issue undecided. We know that the President has solved many more difficult problems. Why should he not solve this problem now?

MR. HERNAEZ. We would like to take advantage of the presence of the President. I believe the matter has come to a stage where we must take some definite action. I want to say here, and repeat what the colleagues have just said, that there has not been any intention of attacking the President. Our intention was to take some action against the Director of Posts, Ruiz, and we never thought that that attack could possibly reflect upon our Executive.

I did not attend yesterday's session; but I can say that I have, with many of our colleagues, been opposed to Mr. Ruiz, solely from esprit de corps. If I had been here when the movement against Director Ruiz was being hatched, I would have suggested the introduction of a resolution against Mr. Ruiz instead of eliminating the salary of the Director of Posts. However, I believe that in view of the lack of time, and as we were passing the Budget page by page, our colleagues had not time enough to proceed in accordance with that proposition.

Now, I say this: as our intention in taking yesterday's action was merely to obtain justice for what we considered unjust treatment by Director Ruiz, I would propose to my colleagues here, in the presence of the President, the withdrawal of the amendment so far as it refers to the elimination of the salary of the Director of Posts, and if the President believes that the resolution, as drafted and adopted in the caucus yesterday, is not proper, we can also amend it. If the President is ready to hear and receive our complaints, if you believe that we must file a formal complaint against Director Ruiz, let us do it.

THE PRESIDENT. If I am to accept the statements of Members Confesor and Hernaez as voicing the sense of all the members of the Assembly, that there has not been the slightest intention... (Several voices: never!) I want to tell you this: the worst of it is that you have placed me in an embarrassing situation, because people will think that anything that I may do now is camouflage and that I have compromised with you in the sense that the amendment will be withdrawn now, and I shall remove Ruiz later. If Member Hernaez or any other, is ready to file an official

complaint, I shall order an investigation. That changes the aspect of the matter. What has been done was an act of thoughtlessness. If those who were complaining against Mr. Ruiz had come to speak to me, as I told De la Paz, I would have demanded Ruiz' resignation without the need of any investigation, because in the case of a Director it is not necessary that there be charges: my not being satisfied with him or having lost confidence in him is sufficient cause for me to demand his resignation. He is not a civil official who cannot be removed without due investigation. In the case of a director, if I believe that he has ceased being useful to the Government and the entire Assembly is against him, his usefulness is gone. It is not a question of competency or incompetency, honesty or dishonesty. A director of a bureau who has incurred the antagonism of the entire Assembly has ceased being useful to the Government, and I will not sacrifice the Government for any man. I would have sent for Ruiz without making much noise about it and would have told him to tender his resignation. But as things are now, that can no longer be done. You will have to make the complaint, and I shall decide in accordance with the result of the investigation. I shall have to act as judge, and you must not feel aggrieved if I judge the question on its merits.

There would not have been any necessity for this if the amendment had not been introduced. I told De la Paz so confidentially. I said to him: "I am glad of this, old fellow, because I am tired of Ruiz; he is a worthless fellow," and I also told him not to bring up the matter on the floor because I should then have to support Ruiz. As I had said I was ready to ask Ruiz for his resignation, your insisting upon bringing the matter up on the floor could be interpreted only one way: I had to feel offended and had to consider your attitude as an imposition.

MR. VERA. I did not arrive in time to hear the explanations. It seems that Mr. Hernaez and others have said that there was no intention of creating an issue with the President. As it was I who made the motion, I wish to reiterate what my colleagues have said, that we had not such intention. On the contrary, we made it appear clearly in last night's discussion that we did not want to have any issue with the President and that we merely desired to transmit to the President the sentiment of the Assembly.

MR. HERNAEZ. The matter having been explained, I make a motion in the sense that the amendment abolishing the salary of the Director of Posts be withdrawn and that the resolution adopted yesterday in the caucus meeting be withdrawn; but that a resolution be adopted to the effect that the proper charges be preferred against Mr. Ruiz.

MR. LAVIDES. In the name of my colleagues I shall say two or three words. I fully agree with what Mr. Hernaez has said. I also want to make public the fact that I have no personal complaint against Mr. Ruiz. I have said so on the floor of the Assembly. When I was chosen to state the reasons for the amendment, I stated them frankly. I said to my colleagues: "You have gotten me into this, and I am going to see it through."

All that was done yesterday was really not against the Executive nor against the Executive Department. I merely wished to reflect the general sentiment of the members of the Assembly against Mr. Ruiz' official acts. Personally, Mr. Ruiz has been my friend for the last 25 years; and when I acted yesterday, I did not act as Lavides, but as the colleague of the Members of the Assembly.

I shall concur in all that may be decided here. If my colleagues desire to proceed in one way or another, it is up to them to decide it. All I did was to state what they wanted me to state.

MR. YARANON. Just a word, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say here that I did not have the least intention to make issues with the Chief Executive in including myself as one of the co-authors of that amendment.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the adoption of the motion of Member Hernaez? (Silence) The Chair does not hear any. Adopted.

MR. REVILLES. Mr. Speaker, let me say this: I have not the least intention of offending the Chief Executive. In fact, I am one of the co-authors of the amendment to suppress the item for the Director of Posts. One of the principal reasons is that not because I have been informed that Director Ruiz is discourteous to the members of the National Assembly, but one of the important reasons is that according to the information we received, that His Excellency has stated that Mr. Ruiz is not doing the work of the Director of Posts, but it is the assistant director. It was also our

belief, Mr. President, that in ranking that amendment, we do not have the least intention of making issues with the Chief Executive.

THE PRESIDENT. That is not true. I do not even know the assistant director of Posts. (President continued his speech in Spanish)

THE PRESIDENT. In view of what Assemblyman Reviles has just said, I wish to state my opinion of Ruiz. I do not believe that Mr. Ruiz is not doing the work and that the assistant director is doing all the work for him, because if I had believed that I should have made him resign. If I had believed that Ruiz was not doing the work and that he was incompetent, I should have done my duty, removing him from office.

The reason why I told De la Paz that I was tired of Ruiz and that I was glad that a complaint had been made against him was that I had heard rumors to the effect that the people were not satisfied with him. But nobody has come. I am tired of hearing that gossip and I was hoping that somebody would complain to me, especially in a country where there is more gossip than certainty. Here gossip brands the purest woman as being the impurest, and there is no means of convincing the people. Hence, when De la Paz spoke to me about Ruiz, I told him I was glad because I was tired of Ruiz, I do not care to have a bureau chief who causes me annoyance.

(The caucus meeting adjourned at 12 m.)

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Transfer of certain administrative supervision from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Finance

**Transfer
of
Certain administrative supervision
From the Secretary of the Interior
To the Secretary of Finance**

[Released on September 29, 1936]

Gentlemen of the National Assembly:

Our Government is confronted with new problems and obligations which involve increasing demands on the public treasury on the other hand the financial relations between our central and local governments are most intimately intertwined, not only in the matter of revenue collections, but also in the granting of loans, extending of financial aid, and guaranteeing bond issues. Having in view the fact that the financial responsibility of the Commonwealth under the Constitution is not confined to the central government but also extends to its divisions and subdivisions, it is necessary to review the organization of our fiscal agencies and establish strong, coordinated and integrated financial organizations and policies.

I have, therefore, issued Executive Order No. 42, transferring to the Secretary of Finance the administrative supervision formerly exercised by the Secretary of the Interior over the offices of provincial, municipal, and city treasurers, thus consolidating the organization for collection work in an effort to insure the highest possible efficiency. A further step needs be taken for the completion of the plan by transferring, also from the Department of the Interior, the powers and supervision over the assessors, assessment of property, appropriations and other financial affairs of local governments to the Department of Finance which, by the nature of its functions, is the branch of the public service entrusted with the financial administration of the Commonwealth.

A bill intended to accomplish this purpose is submitted herewith. Considering its importance, I trust that it will deserve your early consideration.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Memorandum of President Quezon upon signing Bill No. 2029, giving longevity privileges to commissioned officers of the United States Army joining the Philippine Army, November 8, 1936

MEMORANDUM

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPON

**SIGNING BILL NO. 2029, GIVING LONGEVITY PRIVILEGES
TO COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES
ARMY JOINING THE PHILIPPINE ARMY**

[November 8, 1936]

Memorandum

for—

The Chief of Staff, Philippine Army:

I have today signed Bill No. 2029, entitled “An Act to provide for the payment of longevity pay to commissioned officers of the Army of the United States joining the Army of the Philippines and to include service in the Army of the United States and/or in the United States Military or Naval Academy in determining the pay and rights of retirement of commissioned officers in the Army of the Philippines,” which has become Commonwealth Act No. 150.

It is proper that the commissioned officers of the United States Army to join the Philippine Army should be given such longevity privileges as are authorized for the officers of the former Philippine Constabulary now in our Army in order to place them all on the same footing as regards pay and allowances.

I believe, however, that the section of this bill which would include service in the United States Army in determining rights of retirement from the Philippine Army would result not only in the payment of two full pensions, one from the United States and the other from the Philippines, in certain cases for the same length of service, but would also in effect require payment of pensions on service not rendered to the Philippine Government. I, therefore, propose to recommend that this provision of the Act be either repealed or amended at the next regular session of the National Assembly so as to provide a more equitable basis for the retirement of officers of the United States Army joining the Philippine Army.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Quezon invites the people to pay homage to our unknown heroes

Bonifacio Day always brings back to mind the untold hardships and sacrifices of our fathers for the liberty of our country. It is meet that we dedicate this day to the memory of all of those of our race who, like Bonifacio, fought and fell in defense of our inalienable right to live under a government of our own choosing. Thousands of unknown heroes, men who gave up their lives on the altar of liberty, lie under Philippine sod today with nothing to mark their resting place. On this blessings which we enjoy now under a progressive and benevolent government which they, in a great measure, have helped to bring about.

There are still a few living veterans of our political struggles in the past, and they are entitled to that gratitude and respect which we owe their dead comrades. To them this day has a far greater significance because their hearts are linked with their fallen comrades by ties of friendship and love of country. They grieve for the double loss of friends and patriots.

But to both the dead and the living patriots, we, the people, owe an immense debt which we and our children can never hope to repay. To them, salute!

Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines

Press Conference Notes of President Quezon, December 18, 1936

PRESS CONFERENCE NOTES

DECEMBER 18, 1936

4:30 P.M.

CHINA

THE PRESS. Tell us about China.

THE PRESIDENT. I know Chiang Kai-shek very well. I was in Canton when the news of his capture was reported. It was after the banquet that the government of Kwantung gave in my honor. They received the news and they were very much upset.

THE PRESS. Did you meet T.V. Soong?

THE PRESIDENT. I saw him in Hongkong. We had luncheon together at the house of General Wang and I had one of the best Chinese dishes that I had ever had in my life. It was home-cooked Chinese food. I was very much pleased with what I saw there in Canton. It will be a very unfortunate thing for China in Chiang Kai-shek is not set free, because the movement for the unification of China undoubtedly was going on rapidly and strongly. The province of Kwantung, as you know, has been paying but lip service to the Nanking government in the past, and they were very jealous of their independence there and disrespectful of any outside authority. Now, I found, when I got to Canton, that the sentiment for a united government in China was very strong, and the higher authorities in Canton – both military and civil – were very proud of their loyalty to the national government.

The progress that the city of Canton has made is marvelous. I remember I was there on my first visit, way back in 1919 when Dr. Sun Yat Sen was still living, and I was his guest there. At the time there were hardly more than one or two wide streets – they were mostly old, narrow streets. This time, however I did not see any narrow streets there. Their streets are as wide as our Taft Avenue and our Rizal Avenue. They received me with all honors. They had battalions at the railroad station and they played the national anthem and they also had the Philippine flag all over the streets. I was wondering where they got so many flags in such a short time, and they had not only the but the gendarmes and the soldiers lined up at every fifty meters on every street where I was passing. There was a soldier with a rifle, and I was escorted by more than one-half of a company of soldiers carrying machine guns in their hands. By God! And then when I went out to see the University – the University campus there is out of the city – at every fifty meters there were two soldiers with rifles on the right side of the road, facing the country. When I asked the gentleman who was accompanying me what that was for, he said: “That is for your protection.” But what is really important is this. The reason I was very much impressed is that they are real soldiers. They are no longer soldiers of fortune or men paid by a war lord, recognizing no other authority but that of their war master. They were soldiers of the government. When I reviewed those soldiers and walked in front of them, they had a real military bearing and they looked straight at me, not one of them ever shifting eyes. When I reviewed our soldiers here, the officer, while the soldiers are doing military honor, faces me. He is supposed to look at me. When I look at the officer, however, he begins looking somewhere else. But those Chinese – my goodness, every soldier looked at you straight in the eyes.

Then they asked me to visit the Military Academy. It is a wonderful institution. They had 800 cadets there at least. I addressed them, and those people were like statues. Not a move while I was talking, they looked at me straight, made no motion of any sort. When they were ordered at ease, every time I mentioned the name Chiang Kai-shek they automatically stood at attention. Those people are really determined. The moral progress of these men, to me, is nothing short of marvelous.

THE PRESS. As to whether the method in the reconstruction of Canton can be adopted in the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT. We ought demolish every house that is in the way of our widen the Escolta. Here is what the Cantonese did. They first planned the city and then destroyed everything that was in the way of its realization, but paid for the building so razed.

THE PRESS. Crisis with Japan, General attitude of Canton.

THE PRESIDENT. I do not like to have this printed... But those fellows want to fight Japan. They want to fight Japan. You know what impressed me. They do not talk in a boastful way. They speak with perfect self-control and they measure their words. But I gather this from what they tell me: That if Japan forces China into a situation, China is going to fight this time and they are prepared, they think, for war. I also gathered from them that they have not given up Manchuria; that it is only a questions of time; when they feel strong enough they will fight to regain Manchuria. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO PUBLISH THIS, at least as coming from me anyway. I think the Chinese have a grim determination about Manchuria. I believe they will be willing to let Manchuria wants. But I do not think they are going to let Japan keep Manchuria forever.

Now then, here is my reaction to that. I am still speaking confidentially and not for publication. My reaction to that is this: Whether China will fight for Japan in Manchuria or not will depend on the progress that China may make in arming herself and the extent to which she can arm herself. That, in my opinion, will take some time, before China can make a war of conquest. But Japan will not want to give up Manchuria for nothing. I think Japan will put up a fight to keep Manchuria. I think China had been really ready to fight when Japan took Manchuria, then Japan would not have insisted on taking Manchuria. She would have been satisfied with having her rights or what she claimed to be her rights, especially her economic ones, etc. She is now going to try to keep Manchuria and it is going to cost a lot of life and money before China can recover it f she ever does. But the effect is going to be: that Japan will feel uneasy about her situation in Manchuria, and she will not be considering extending her territory some more; so that I feel very safe, much safer now, than I did before I saw Canton. Canton is very far from Manchuria. The situation of Manchuria does not affect Canton at all. If there is no sense of oneness amongst the Chinese in Canton, that very deep feeling about Manchuria and the Manchurian question is the best thing that has happened to China. It is what is making China it is today. That is really a blessing in disguise.

THE PRESS. How Russian would stand in case of China's growing strong?

THE PRESIDENT. My answer to that would be merely a guess. I could not say for sure. Japan's special policy. We read that it Tanaka's documents, and I think that is true. But if China is not weakened, if she goes on as she is going now, there will be no trouble, and Japan will be much more than satisfied to hold Manchuria; and she will find that she has eaten more than she can digest.

THE PRESS. How about a Philippine Commonwealth alliance with China?

THE PRESIDENT. We are going to adopt the policy of Washington: No alliance.

NEUTRALIZATION

THE PRESS. The Tydings-McDuffie Act seems to be compatible with itself namely, the provisions for neutralization, or attempt to secure the neutralization of the Philippines – and the negotiation looking towards the establishment of an American naval base here – will these provisions be proper from the standpoint of Philippine interest?

THE PRESIDENT. The neutralization treaty, at least for the time being, has lost all attract on for me. To me it is meaningless, and unless during the next three, four or five years the attitude of the great powers toward international agreements and accords change, I do not believe that any treaty of neutrality for the Philippines will mean much. However, I would not object to the neutralization of the Philippines will be considered a neutral territory and will not involve any guaranty of that neutrality on the part of the other nations. In other words, if the treaty will merely se that the signatories of it declare and will consider and respect the Philippines of it declare and will and respect the Philippines as neutral territory, there will be no objection to that, for that is good. I do not want any guaranty among

themselves because that will give them an excuse to interfere. Now a treaty of that sort would not be incompatible, I think, with any treaty that the Philippines may have with the United States whereby the United States may retain some naval stations in the Islands. Of course, the part whereby the naval stations is established would be outside the treaty. The would be the result of it, I suppose. Whether any nation would want to recognize the neutrality of the Philippines or to consider the Philippines a neutral territory, if there were an American naval station here, I do not know. Now, whether it will be to the interest of the Philippines to have this naval station or not, that again will depend upon the attitude which the United States may take with reference to this naval station. If that were made a part, or even if not, if it were consistent with the special trade relations between the United States and the Philippines – which would indicate a close association, even if only economic, between this country and the United States – it would seem to me that such a basis of relationship with the United States, with her naval station here, would be justified and in the interest of the Philippines, as well as in the interest of the United States, because that would mean the stability of America to protect her trade routes. But if the United States had no further connection with the Philippines, even of an economic nature, I do not see really any justification for such a naval station in the Island, even from the standpoint of America. I am not in a position to speak, at this time, of the attitude we would take in reference to an American naval station here. That is a matter that will have to be considered when the question is really up for serious consideration.

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

THE PRESS. Regarding the political provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, has absolute political independence been decided upon, without any possible chance of reconsideration?

THE PRESIDENT. I think that the mental attitude of our people is fixed. I think that they will want to have complete independence. It always happens so, on matters of this kind. It happens to everything of the same nature. When you give individuals, whose freedom of action has been limited, greater freedom to move, the more freedom you give them the more freedom they want to have. Well, after we started this government of the Commonwealth as we found out that we are able to run its affairs well, we now feel that we want to run its affairs well, we now feel that we want to it run it more independently of other people. There is a duplication of effects the way things are run now; it uses more time that is necessary. For instance, under the Act certain things must be approved by Washington. We approve an Act here and then we have to wait pending approval, this is a question of practical government. The question of tariff, for instance, the right to enact a tariff is an essential power for any government that desires to be self-sufficient – but we have no such power at all. On the question of tariff, on the right to initiate tariff legislation, the power of the President of the United States to disapprove our tariff laws in the Philippines is absolute. Again, in the disposal of our financial and economic resources – this again in a way is subject to the supervision and control of the President of the United States. In other words, in everything affecting the economy of the Islands, we are tied up; and that is a fact. Even if we know that there is entire good faith, equally on the part of the Philippines and on the other part of Washington, regarding measures we are enacting affecting the economics of the Islands, there may be differences of opinion, differences of views; and when there is that difference of views it is not our view that will prevail, the law having been given the President of the United States the power and responsibility to make the final decision; he cannot conscientiously make any other decision but one consonant with his views and his opinion, therefore, the right one. Well, we shall always think that our decision is right, because we shall always feel that we know better the conditions prevailing here, naturally if and when these decisions occur in the future, there will be little satisfaction. We have been fortunate in having, as the financial adviser for the Office of the High Commissioner and now as the Acting High Commissioner, a man who is very broad-minded and who is very sensible and who looks at every question from a practical point of view Mr. Jones. Well, Mr. Jones has been a great help. He has been no hindrance whatever to our plans on the contrary he has been of great help because of his advice is sound. He does not advance his views; he does not interfere; but when, at any time, the Government of the Commonwealth desires to have this views, on any question, he is ready to give his advice, and does it in a very impartial, objective way. He gives you the facts, submits to your consideration the implications of every act that you may take, and then he lets you decide for yourself. He has really been very good, and to Commissioner Murphy he was also helpful in what we are doing in the Philippines. So far he has been very helpful but there is the possibility of disagreement.

THE TRADE CONFERENCE

THE PRESS. How about the trade conference in the United States?

THE PRESIDENT. I doubt its efficiency because the problem is something that it cannot remedy. I think that the minute that America is willing to give up the authorities that have been retained by the President by Act of Congress, the minute they give up, the Philippines is absolutely independent; and so for the protection of the United States, as long as the American flag is here, they must have those powers. They cannot have any less, I am reasonable enough to admit that. They can have no less power than what have been retained by Congress in the United States President. As long as the American flag is flying in the Philippines they are going to be responsible for the Government of the Philippines, even for the international relations. Otherwise, they will be holding the bag. However, in Canada, Australia or in New Zealand, in those governments Great Britain retains none of the powers that are retained by the United States. The British flag is there but these governments can do what they want to do in the matter of tariff or currency, or in anything, and the Government of Great Britain has nothing to say. But that has been a development of many, many years. These Commonwealths have been gradually exercising these powers and no one has been withholding these from them. And there have been no cases wherein these governments have done anything to involve Great Britain in a conflict with any other nation; so that, at least, they feel that Great Britain has to supervise them. We as a people are not only different from the America and England, but we have as Commonwealth newly established, and I think that America has no ground for complaint: we certainly given her no ground to complain about our loyalty and character, nor have we involved her in any difficulties with any other nation. I do not think Congress would consider this.

DOMINION STATUS

THE PRESS. At the end of this 10-year period a dominion status for the Philippines might be mutually expected.

THE PRESIDENT. It is very hard to say. I do not think the American people will consider any proposal of that kind. I do not believe they will permit a situation whereby America will be responsible for the foreign relations of the Philippines and exercise no authority whatever over the government of the Islands. If she does not, the Filipino people will insist that they may enjoy all those rights necessary for the independence, so that they may enjoy all those rights necessary for the decision of questions affecting their national life.

THE PRESS. What Relief Measures have been done for the flooded region?

THE PRESIDENT. I am going there. We are in perfect control now of the situation; that is to say, we have all the personnel that is necessary and we are going as fast as we can in repairing damages that have been done and in affording help to the sufferers from the flood. I myself am going there as soon as I have decided on the pressing questions before the government, as soon as the road is in better condition. We cannot do more than what we are doing now.

THE PRESS. As to the calling of a Special Session of the National Assembly.

THE PRESIDENT. I am not going to call any special session. This is what I said – you reporters misinterpreted my statement: The Members of the National Assembly will be here next February. I take that for granted because there is going to be held here a Eucharistic Congress. They come here during the carnival every year so that I take it for granted they will again be here. I am not going to call a special session. I have had enough for one year. My blood pressure has gone up. The National Assembly has passed enough laws for the next 10 years. It will take time to carry them out.

PURCHASE OF HACIENDAS

THE PRESS. Any truth, Mr. President, in the rumor that the government is considering the purchase of large haciendas for distribution?

THE PRESIDENT. The ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce to speak is incomparable. We have not got the money appropriated for that. We are going to expropriate that portion of the landed estates which is occupied by tenants for their homes. We are going to take those up immediately, expropriate them; that is all the money the government can dispose of at present, because that is all that has been appropriated. I would advocate expropriation of all those landed estates if we had the money to do it. But we have not the money to do it.

THE PRESS. How much money?

THE PRESIDENT. I guess it would reach the amount of ten million pesos anyway.

THE PRESS. More than that!

THE PRESS. How about the Hacienda Esperanza?

THE PRESIDENT. You include those that are owned privately? I thought you were the only speaking of the Estates of the Church. My goodness, I would need about 50 million pesos for that. We would wreck the whole government. You can not do it. Well, I tell you it is worth considering very seriously whether a great part of that tax should not be used for that. As a matter of fact, I have been thinking to use a part of the money.

THE PRESS. Mr. Sotto, in behalf of the Socialist Party, sent a petition to Washington asking for the payment of those funds (coconut oil tax) so as to buy the big haciendas.

THE PRESIDENT. Is he (Sotto) afraid that I shall use the Army to shoot him and the rest of his gang?

I tell you I would recommend it to the Assembly. The matter requires a little further study but I would not hesitate to say this: My idea was to recommend to the Assembly that a part of this money be earmarked to pay our bonded indebtedness – the purpose being that, if congress knows that we have set aside many millions more than necessary for us to have, to insure the payment of our bonded obligation, then it will be wiser for us to get Congress to do away with the export tax. You see the export tax. One of the reasons given in Congress for the export tax is that we may thereby have money with which to pay our bonded indebtedness. It is not in the law; that is only in the speeches. We have never deviated from that. Every year we have set aside the necessary amount for our bonded obligations. If we earmark, say 30 million pesos. To be kept in the Treasury for this bond, we shall be preparing the ground for the amendment of that part of the Independence Law which requires the payment of the taxes.

THE PRESS. The United States is so scrupulous about this. The United States is responsible for the financial stability of this government.

THE PRESIDENT. That is one thing. The other is to appropriate this money for the purchase of such landed estates as are occupied by tenants, with the purpose of re-selling these to them. Those are two purposes that should be, in my opinion, good purposes, because you see there are not large landed estates in the coconut-growing provinces; not one. In the coconut-growing country the land is parceled amongst the small land owners. It is only in the rice-growing regions and in the sugar region that there are large landed estates. In all other places there are no haciendas except in Davao.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

THE PRESS. Is it entirely equitable for this government to use a tax on one product to redeem the bonds of the government?

THE PRESIDENT. The Congress of the United States has our hands tied there because the provisions of the law directly or indirectly affect it.

THE PRESS. Simplify the sales tax at the present time – the tax from the coconut oil.

THE PRESIDENT. I should like to do that very much. But if we did that would be one indirect way. We passed a law here, I do not remember now which.

In the last session we passed a law, I do not remember it this minute. It had nothing to do with this copra region.

THE PRESS. Copra Centrals?

THE PRESIDENT. They cannot consider it that way because it would be repetition on the sugar centrals. I would never dare to do anything like that without the previous knowledge and approval of the government of the United States. Yes, I would present the case very plainly to them. Otherwise, you would be taking the risk of losing this money, which is very big money for beggars like is here.

FUND FOR INDEBTEDNESS

THE PRESS. How about the valuation for indebtedness?

THE PRESIDENT. When I was in Washington and we are negotiating this with the government of the United States, with the Treasury Department where, I was not willing to yield one cent, not a cent. I wanted every cent returned to the Philippines and I got the President to approve it. I discovered one day that they got Singson, who was then the Secretary of Finance, to agree on ten million pesos. Singson said: 'Mr. President, we better take what we can get now.' And Congress approved the law. But then you also know what Congress did when it came to the matter of appropriation. What I mean to say is this: I will take one-half of that now and call it square. But really, from the standpoint of moral obligation, the United States has a very plain, moral one there, and the President has recognized it and will pay to the Philippine Government. But I want you, gentlemen, to know this: I am not going to lose that money. When they see the whole situation here much more impartially and with equanimity, I have no doubt that we shall get something. We shall get the amount, if not in money actually appropriated, then in something that they will give to the Islands. You must remember this, that after the Philippines becomes independent, there will be some accounts that have to be settled, and it is a good thing that we have this money in the treasury of the United States and we can then charge these accounts to that. We will get that.

ARMY BARRACKS

THE PRESS. As to the Trade School being used for Army barracks.

THE PRESIDENT. It has long been referred to me that the Provincial government has permitted that because the school really does not need all the space. We are not taking anything from the school. What is actually being used by the school will not be taken.

THE PRESS. It was a military camp.

THE PRESIDENT. It does not belong to the school at all. It is not true. The United States Army can transfer to the Bureau of Education. That has been transferred to the Government of the Philippines and temporarily it has been lent there and those buildings are provincial buildings. They are not buildings of the National Government, but we are not taking any building that is being used by the students. That is not true. I am sure of that.

THE PRESS. What is your attitude, Mr. President, on the question of Japanese sub-leasing in Davao.

THE PRESIDENT. The law does not permit it.

THE PRESS. Any move to cancel these leases that have been granted?

THE PRESIDENT. There seems to be no evidence of any sublease. There is evidence that these Japanese that are working there are working for the account of the Filipinos who have leased the land.

I want to say something more on the Army business, because this is one important single thing that the government is doing. We have a crowd of people here that are being influenced by these pacifist philosophers and if the Island become the field, a productive field for these pacifists, then we might as well say good-bye to all our dreams and ambitions. This is nonsensical talk that is going on about militarizing the Philippines. The maximum strength of our regular Army is not even going to be two divisions, which is less than 2,000 men. We shall have the smallest army in the world even among the smallest nations. Even Siam has nearly 100,000 men. For maximum, we will have between 7,000 and 10,000 men. Now, we do not even have 7,000 men. That is our regular army and in that number the Constabulary, which is doing police work already included.

THE PRESS. Really, is this militarization of the Philippines?

THE PRESIDENT. We ought to train every man and woman. Every citizen in every civilized community where there is the spirit of duty ought to be trained to defend the country. This is the paramount duty of every citizen, for we cannot defend our country with our tongue. But Sotto talks much about independence, making foolish speeches, and actually does nothing. That is what such fellows do when confronted by an enemy. It would be murder to attempt to defend oneself unless one has been prepared by the government. This talk of militarizing the Philippines is getting on my nerves. And after I have seen China, more than ever am I determined to carry out that policy. China would never have been a disorganized nation if there had been military training there. We need that even in peace. Even if we have no war, it is better that our citizens gave national discipline.

I do not want people, specially people of other countries, who believe that living consists only eating plenty and dancing and doing nothing. I do not want to have such people in my own country.

THE PRESS. How about your first plan that the constabulary should consist of 10, 000 men and the standing Army of 19, 000.

THE PRESIDENT. We have come to the conclusion that it will not be necessary. There will always be one division composed of those that are receiving the training and those that may be called; but the other, which we may term the regular army, will be 10, 000, including the Constabulary.

THE PRESS. How large is this Constabulary.

THE PRESIDENT. Three thousands.

I am already having trouble listening to those fellows. However, the rest will always be ready to support and cooperate with the Constabulary. The 3,000 Constabulary men that we now have, or that we shall have in one year, will be more effective than the 7,000 that we used to have. Because we shall have airplanes, gas, tanks, and armored cars. The 3,000 men thus equipped are worth more than 7,000 that we used to have, who had only rifles. So 3,000 men will be sufficient.

THE PRESS. About twenty years ago you said the Filipino loved to wear the uniform.

THE PRESIDENT. I still believe that every Filipino loves the uniform. If I could give everybody a uniform and a gun, and if tomorrow I should happen to have 50,000 guns here and 50,000 uniforms for everyone, in about half an hour there will not be any gun left. You will see them shooting everyone who opposes.

Source: Quezon Family Collections

One-Minute Talk of President Quezon delivered for Fox Films upon his arrival in Los Angeles, February 14, 1937

**One-Minute Talk
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Delivered for Fox Films upon his arrival in Los Angeles**

[Released on February 14, 1937]

GREETING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

I am happy to be in the United States again. I have been here so often that I consider this country my second home. I am a regular commuter between Manila and Washington and New York. I bring with me not only the greetings of the Filipino people to the people of America, but also a message of gratitude for the great work accomplished in the Philippines by the altruism of the American nation culminating in the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. May the friendship now existing between your great country and mine endure forever.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

From interview with Mr. Vicente J. Guzman of the Tribune Staff and other newspapermen on board s.s. President Hoover, August 16, 1937

**FAR EAST CRISIS NO DETERRENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT
OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE**

[From interview with Mr. Vicente J. Guzman of the Tribune Staff
and other newspapermen on board s.s. President Hoover,
Aug. 16, 1937.]

The crisis in the Far East will not influence President Manuel L. Quezon with regard to his proposal for the advancement of independence, which he emphatically reiterated upon returning to the Philippines.

President Quezon told newsmen who met him aboard the President Hoover yesterday morning that he stands by his petition to shorten the transition period. The reiteration of his independence proposal in the light of recent developments in the Orient was given considerable importance in local political circles, considering that the President and the members of the joint preparatory committee on Philippine affairs had just passed through the troubled area.

The President and the experts were passing through Japan shortly after the outbreak of fighting between Japanese and Chinese troops in north China. The s. s. President Hoover barely missed the fighting in Shanghai, leaving that city shortly before Japanese and Chinese troops clashed.

The President was given one of the warmest receptions ever accorded any official here as some 150,000 jammed the waterfront and the route from the New Luneta to Malacanang. He returned in good health and in good humor, and answered his critics during a press interview and in the speech in Tagalog he delivered from the Malacanang balcony.

Putting into effect the first practical result of his seven-month trip abroad, he signed an executive order last night, the first official document he issued, increasing the minimum wages of national government laborers in Manila to P1.25 and of laborers in the provinces to P1.00.

Last night, he also had his first personal conversation with U.S. High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt over the telephone, during which he requested the High Commissioner to include Filipino nationals in Shanghai in the evacuation of American citizens.

The 15-minute press conference on board the s.s. President Hoover began at 8:45 a.m. Surrounded by representatives of the local and foreign press, President Quezon, dressed in white sharkskin, began by saying that he had no statement to make but that he was ready to answer questions.

He said that the petition he addressed to the American government for advancement of the date of independence from 1946 to either 1938 or 1939 stands, despite the critical situation in the Far East. As to the prospects of his plan in Congress, he said he was not prepared to answer the question. "After all, I am not a prophet," he said.

As to the attitude of President Roosevelt, he refused to anticipate it, saying that he preferred to let the United States President speak for himself.

He recalled, however, that when he appeared before the American inter-departmental committee acting for President Roosevelt, he asked the members of that committee whether they could conceive of any situation that would act against early independence. "Not one in the room opened his mouth," he said, "and they merely said they were not prepared to answer the question."

“If we cannot get independence in 1938 or 1939, we can not be independent in 1946,” President Quezon told the newspapermen. “What is six or seven years in the life of a nation. The country is as much ready for independence now as it would be in 1946, so that makes no difference whether we are independent in 1939 or 1938.

At this phase of the interview, Assemblyman Vicente Rama, of Cebu, representing a Cebu newspaper, asked whether, in launching his early independence plan, the President had the advice and knowledge not only of the National Assembly but also of his colleagues in the government.

Without hesitation, the President answered that when he filed his petition for early independence with President Roosevelt and later with the inter-departmental committee, he said nothing that he had not said during the debates over the Hare-Hawes-Cutting law.

“I said then that as between early independence and the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law, I preferred early independence. You probably know, that there is no difference between the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law and the Tydings-McDuffie Act, excepting as regards naval reservations.

“The events transpiring during the one and a half years of the effectivity of the Tydings-McDuffie Act has convinced me that I had reason in saying that I had then said. Besides that, my statements during the debates on the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law were launched as our side of the election issue. The people voted in favor of those statements and they stand inasmuch as they have never been withdrawn by the people.”

The President revealed that he has abandoned his plan for a special session. He stated that he originally proposed to convoke the National Assembly into a special session for the purpose of approving legislation necessary to carry out his plan to purchase large haciendas. After discussing the matter with solons and cabinet members, he has decided against a special session inasmuch as the regular session, which opens on October 16, is near.

President Quezon also said that all provincial, city and municipal officials will remain in office excepting those who have been found guilty of administrative charges after thorough investigation. These will be removed and replaced, he said.

The President cautioned against “noisy patriotism,” saying that the people should be tolerant of each others views. “I invite everybody to air their grievances, as after all we have a democratic country in the Philippines.

“I am not infallible: Therefore, only the Filipino people have the sole right of deciding their fate and no man or group of men have the right to decide that.”

He went on to explain that the joint preparatory committee on Philippine affairs does not possess the power to determine whether the Filipino want independence or not, much less recommend the fixing of the date of independence. “As stated in the joint statement issued by Secretary Sayre and I, the committee was created solely for the purpose of determining the bearing which the advancement of the date of independence would have on retarding or facilitating the Philippine national economy.”

President and Mrs. Quezon arrived at Malacanan at 10:05, and after a rest of 25 minutes, the President addressed the crowd that were admitted to the grounds.

He was introduced by Secretary of Interior Elpidio Quirino, who spoke in Tagalog. In beginning his speech President Quezon, who also spoke in Tagalog, said: “It shows that Secretary Quirino is anti-suffragist because when he began to address you he said “Ladies and compatriots, as if the ladies are not our compatriots, but I say compatriots, and in thus making the salutation the women and men are included.

“We are greatly satisfied and happy over the tribute which the people have showered us and because of this we express out- sincere gratitude with open hearts.

“I learned that during my absence, some of my friends criticized my trip, saying that I abandoned my duty here. To this, my answer is that due to this trip I return with P100,000,000 for the welfare of the people.

“They say that I spent the money of the people. Granting that this is true, the amount I spent is very little in comparison with the sum I brought back for the people, which will be used in helping the poor.

“Tomorrow, I shall order government engineers to pay Manila laborers a minimum wage of P1.25 and provincial laborers, P1. If this is not enough, I shall order the amount increased. You should give that this trip will enable the opening of public schools wherever they are necessary.

“Due to this trip, the platform of the coalition party as to the purchase of large hacienda will be carried out. In this manner, tenants whose grandfathers have been occupying these lands for many years without hope or ever owing a piece would be able to acquire land.

“My trips abroad are criticized but others also have been going abroad almost continuously and yet these are not criticized. The purposes of my trips are for the good of the country. In the first trip, I brought back the Jones Law, in the second, the Tydings-McDuffie Act and now I bring money to the people. On the other hand, what did the others bring back? Words and nothing else but words.

“There is a saying that a man is known for what he does and what he says. When I accepted the nomination for the Presidency, one of my promises was for the happiness of the people. Now, another occasion presents itself to enable me to comply with that promise, which is a promise for aid to the people and for this reason I expect that not only those in the government but also those who are sincere critics of the government extend their cooperation for the triumph of our liberty.

“But if they refuse to cooperate and they continue with the attacks, they can go ahead. There is democracy here. In nations where autocracy and despotism reign, those who attack the government are killed.

Here, where there is no person so continuously and gravely attacked as I, no critic is killed or sent to jail, because there is freedom and democracy here.”

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Memorandum of President Quezon on appointment of Captain Villavicencio as Manila Pilot, September 6,
1937 MEMORANDUM**

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**APPOINTMENT OF CAPTAIN VILLAVICENCIO AS
MANILA PILOT**

[September 6, 1937]

Memorandum for the Secretary of Finance:

In the matter of the appointment of Captain Villavicencio as Manila pilot, a protest has reached this office that in point of seniority this captain is not entitled to the appointment.

It has been the consistent policy of this administration repeatedly announced that the man in the service in line for promotion should be given a chance either to prove his worthiness or unworthiness by giving him, in case of a vacancy, at least a temporary designation until the fact has been established that the incumbent is not equal to the responsibility involved in his new assignment. In the particular case which I have before me, there is added necessity for complying with the rule in view of the fact that the appointee is from your own home province and town. As you know, a general criticism against our Government in the past and which is still heard even under our administration is that relatives and friends, and also "comprovincianos," get preferential attention in the choice of officials and employees in the Government. This in our local parlance is called "regionalismo."

I hope it is not necessary for me to tell you that I am positive that in the appointment of Captain Villavicencio you have been guided only by your own conviction that his choice was in the best interest of the service, but we must place ourselves above unjustifiable criticism however cautious we may be in our acts. I, therefore, feel that you should find a way whereby your appointee may resign so that the man senior in point of service may take the appointment. If experience should prove that he is not as competent as Captain Villavicencio, then it will be time to appoint the latter.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Memorandum of President Quezon on Administration of Affairs in Mindanano, September 20, 1937

MEMORANDUM

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

ADMINISTRATION OF AFFAIRS IN MINDANAO

[September 20, 1937]

Memorandum
Secretary of the Interior:

for

the

The following will be the policy that should control the administration of the affairs of Mindanao, particularly of those parts that are inhabited largely or partly by Mohammedan Filipinos:

1. The Commissioner of Mindanao should be given a free hand in settling administrative matters without the necessity of having to report to the Secretary of the Interior before taking action thereon. It is the purpose of the law creating the position of Commissioner of Mindanao to make it unnecessary for the Department of the Interior to interfere with the ordinary administration of the provinces under the authority of the Commissioner, except when there is a complaint against abuse of power committed by the Commissioner, or when there is an appeal against a decision of the Commissioner of Mindanao in the ordinary course of law. In other words, it is the purpose of the law creating this position to facilitate the transaction of official business in the provinces under the authority of the Commissioner of Mindanao and to give impetus to the work of improving the condition of the people educationally, morally, and materially, and of developing the resources of that part of the country. If the present Commissioner of Mindanao is not sufficiently fit to exercise that power and to assume this responsibility, you should report the case to me immediately, and I shall proceed to appoint a new man. But so long as we have a commissioner there, the Commissioner should be allowed to exercise and use his own discretion in carrying out the policies of the National Government in Mindanao.

2. It has been, in my opinion, the weakness in the policy heretofore adopted by the Government of the Philippines in dealing with the Mohammedan Filipinos or Moros in Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago to give some sort of recognition to the *datus*, so that they have become in practice *ex officio* officials of the Government. This policy must be stopped and changed radically. It gives the impression that there is a dual government for the Moros—one exercised by the appointed or elected officials of the Government and the other by the *datus* or sultans. It perpetuates the overlordship exercised through the ages by these *datus* and sultans over their *sacup*, who, on this account, continue to be, in fact, slaves of their sultans and *datus* as they were under the Spanish regime. The Government is in duty bound to protect the common people in the Moroland, as much as it is bound to protect the common people in other provinces and regions of the Philippines, from the control or exploitation of those Moros and Christian Filipinos, whether they be called sultans, *datus*, leaders, or *hacenderos*, or *caciques*, who would exploit or abuse them. Therefore, from this time on you should instruct the governors and municipal presidents in the provinces composing the territory under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu to deal directly with the people instead of with the *datus*, sultans, leaders or *caciques*. Provincial governors and municipal presidents must constantly visit the territories under their respective jurisdictions and talk with the people, find out their needs and in what manner the Government may be of help to them. The position of municipal president or municipal district president must be dignified, and the man occupying the position must be made to feel the importance of his office and the seriousness of his responsibility. He must be paid, at least, as much as the chief of police within his jurisdiction, so that the people may know that he is the head of the local government in his municipality or district. If the municipality or district does not have sources of its own, or the help given by the provincial government is not

sufficient, the necessary funds should be taken from the contribution of the National Government to these provinces, and if it be found necessary, I want you to submit a recommendation to me for presentation to the National Assembly at this coming regular session, for an increase in the appropriation as help to these provinces, so that an adequate pay may be given to those municipal presidents and/or municipal district presidents.

The provincial governors should be required to visit regularly the different municipalities or districts constituting their provinces. They should primarily consult with the municipal officials and use them for such work as have to be done in each municipality or district, rather than with datos or sultans as formerly. These datos and sultans should never be allowed to have anything to do with functions that are official. They should be heard exactly and precisely as every other citizen has the right to be heard on matters affecting the nation, his province, his municipality, or his district. Their help should be sought no more than the help of any other citizen in any other part of the Philippines is sought, if and when the services of such citizen may be needed. By this, I mean that nothing must be done by this Government or its officials that would give the impression that men without official responsibilities and powers may exercise any authority or intervene with authority on governmental or administrative affairs of the nation, the province, the municipality or the district.

When I last visited Lanao—and I held a conference with the people of that province—upon hearing a datu, who submitted a petition to me in the name of the datos of Lanao on a matter affecting the school service in that province, I took advantage of the incident to state, right in that meeting, publicly and directly, in as clear a language as I could, so that it might be as clearly interpreted to the audience, composed of Christians and non-Christian Filipinos or Moros, including, not only datos, but the ordinary Moros, to say to all that this Government cannot recognize the datos as having any special right to interfere in matters affecting school service or any other service in the Government. I told the Moro sultan who had spoken, right there and then, that I should have been more pleased if he had spoken on behalf of the people of Lanao, instead of in the name of the sultans. And I added that the sultans have no more rights than the humblest Moro and that under my administration the humblest Moro will be given as much protection as any datu under the law, and that his rights will be recognized exactly as the rights of a datu will be, and that every datu will have to comply with his duties as a citizen to the same extent and in the same manner that the humblest Moro is obligated.

What I then said to that sultan must be the guiding principle for every official of this Government, from the Secretary of the Interior down to the last policeman, in dealing with the Moros and their datos.

3. I am inclined to believe now that the time has come for the appointment of civilian governors in every province largely or partly inhabited by Mohammedan Filipinos. You know from several conferences we have had heretofore that I thought it would be wiser to continue for a time at least with Constabulary officers as governors of Lanao, Cotabato, and Jolo. Of late I have given more thought to this matter, and after hearing the opinion of the Members of the National Assembly representing districts where a Constabulary official is Governor, I have come to the conclusion that as soon as we can find the right men from amongst civilians, we should appoint them as governors for these provinces. The reasons which have convinced me to take this wise step, are the following:

(a) The inhabitants of these provinces—both Mohammedans and Christians—should have before their eyes a tangible evidence that a great change has taken place in the National Government of the Philippines. All along they have had uniformed men as their governors—men who in the eyes of the average man represent that side of the Government which means force. Particularly, the Mohammedan Filipinos or Moros have seen these men in uniform in armed conflict with their brothers, relatives, or townsmen, who in the past have attempted to resist the Government by violence. It is natural, therefore, that in their subconscious mind they should see in these governors, not the representative of a government that uses persuasive advice in getting the people to obey its laws; not the representative of a government that is interested in their well being, their mental and material progress; not the representative of a government that is desirous to be helpful to its citizens, but the representative of a government that uses only force in dealing with the people. We must change this mental attitude which, rightly or wrongly, consciously or unconsciously, seems to prevail especially among the Moros of the provinces above mentioned. Let them see from now on as the head of the government in their respective provinces a civilian—a man without uniform and without arms, and who will not have, if and when it may be necessary, to lead the armed forces of the Government against violations of the law by armed groups. Let these governors speak to the people about the peaceful objectives of the Government carried through peaceful means. Let these governors visit their respective

provinces constantly and mingle with the common man, see him in his home, on his farm, talk to the masses and tell them in what way the Government can be of help to them in improving their agriculture, their small trade, in ameliorating the hardships of their lives, in raising their standard of living, in combating disease, in creating sanitary conditions, and in protecting them against abuses from evil persons. In one word, let the inhabitants of these provinces to which I am referring, feel toward the Government, by means of civilian officials that we will place at the head of these provinces, exactly as the average good citizens of other provinces of the Philippines feel toward the Government of their country.

Please proceed, as soon as you can, to get information from all sources as to who are the men who could do this work well in Mindanao, and submit to me a list from which I may pick the men I shall appoint. We may get men already in the government service, or outside the service, men who have shown executive and administrative ability, industry, and above all, an unimpeachable honesty.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Memorandum of President Quezon to the First National Assembly on censorship of radio programs by the Government Radio Board, September 20, 1937

MEMORANDUM

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ON

**CENSORSHIP OF RADIO PROGRAMS BY THE GOVERNMENT
RADIO BOARD**

[September 20, 1937]

Memorandum for the Chairman of the Radio Board:

I have seen in a Sunday paper a news item to the effect that the Board has decided at its recent session to order the broadcasting companies to submit their programs before they are held. If this is true, it is contrary to the views I expressed at a meeting of the Cabinet not long ago. In that meeting I stated that the Government should pay only for the time it uses in broadcasting its own information, and I expressed my objection to the Radio Board censoring radio programs. All I wanted the Radio Board to do was to require that speeches or news broadcast be in writing and copies thereof sent to the Radio Board after they have been delivered, in order that if and when a broadcast made be against the law, there may be evidence at hand for the prosecution of the guilty party.

A means should be found whereby this order to the broadcasting stations can be enforced.

As I stated at the meeting of the Cabinet, any attempt on the part of the Government to pass or to censor the radio programs is tantamount to a limitation of the freedom of speech, and it was because of my opposition to any policy on the part of the Government that would, in any way, curtail the freedom of speech or give the Government a monopoly of any kind on means of information that I have objected to the establishment by the Government of a radio station, if it is going to be an exclusive franchise.

A report on the matter is requested.

(Sgd.) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior: Administration of Affairs in Mindanao

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

Memorandum for the
Secretary of the Interior

Administration of Affairs in Mindanao
[September 20, 1937]

The following will be the policy that should control the administration of the affairs of Mindanao, particularly of those parts that are inhabited largely or partly by Mohammedan Filipinos:

1. The Commissioner of Mindanao should be given a free hand in settling administrative matters without the necessity of having to report to the Secretary of the Interior before taking action thereon. It is the purpose of the law creating the position of Commissioner of Mindanao to make it unnecessary for the Department of the Interior to interfere with the ordinary administration of the provinces under the authority of the Commissioner, except when there is a complaint against abuse of power committed by the Commissioner, or when there is an appeal against a decision of the Commissioner of Mindanao in the ordinary course of law. In other words, it is the purpose of the law creating this position to facilitate the transaction of official business in the provinces under the authority of the Commissioner of Mindanao and to give impetus to the work of improving the condition of the people educationally, morally, and materially, and of developing the resources of that part of the country. If the present Commissioner of Mindanao is not sufficiently fit to exercise that power and to assume this responsibility, you should report the case to me immediately, and I shall proceed to appoint a new man. But so long as we have a commissioner there, the Commissioner should be allowed to exercise and use his own discretion in carrying out the policies of the National Government in Mindanao.

2. It has been, in my opinion, the weakness in the policy heretofore adopted by the Government of the Philippines in dealing with the Mohammedan Filipinos or Moros in Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago to give some sort of recognition to the *datus*, so that they have become in practice *ex officio* officials of the Government. This policy must be stopped and changed radically. It gives the impression that there is a dual government for the Moros—one exercised by the appointed or elected officials of the Government and the other by the *datus* or sultans. It perpetuates the overlordship exercised through the ages by these *datus* and sultans over their *sacup*, who, on this account, continue to be, in fact, slaves of their sultans and *datus* as they were under the Spanish regime. The Government is in duty bound to protect the common people in the Moroland, as much as it is bound to protect the common people in other provinces and regions of the Philippines, from the control or exploitation of those Moros and Christian Filipinos, whether they be called sultans, *datus*, leaders, or hacenderos, or caciques, who would exploit or abuse them. Therefore, from this time on you should instruct the governors and municipal presidents in the provinces composing the territory under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu to deal directly with the people instead of with the *datus*, sultans, leaders or caciques. Provincial governors and municipal presidents must constantly visit the territories under their respective jurisdictions and talk with the people, find out their needs and in what manner the Government may be of help to them. The position of municipal president or municipal district president must be dignified, and the man occupying the position must be made to feel the importance of his office and the seriousness of his responsibility. He must be paid, at least, as much as the chief of police within his jurisdiction, so that the people may know that he is the head of the local government in his municipality or district. If the municipality or district does not have sources of its own, or the help given by the provincial government is not sufficient, the necessary funds should be taken from the contribution of the National Government to these provinces, and if it be found necessary, I want you to submit a recommendation to me for presentation to the National Assembly at this coming regular session, for an increase in the appropriation as help to these provinces, so that an adequate pay may be given to those municipal presidents and/or municipal district presidents.

The provincial governors should be required to visit regularly the different municipalities or districts constituting their provinces. They should primarily consult with the municipal officials and use them for such work as have to be done in each municipality or district, rather than with datus or sultans as formerly. These datus and sultans should never be allowed to have anything to do with functions that are official. They should be heard exactly and precisely as every other citizen has the right to be heard on matters affecting the nation, his province, his municipality, or his district. Their help should be sought no more than the help of any other citizen in any other part of the Philippines is sought, if and when the services of such citizen may be needed. By this, I mean that nothing must be done by this Government or its officials that would give the impression that men without official responsibilities and powers may exercise any authority or intervene with authority on governmental or administrative affairs of the nation, the province, the municipality or the district.

When I last visited Lanao—and I held a conference with the people of that province—upon hearing a datu, who submitted a petition to me in the name of the datus of Lanao on a matter affecting the school service in that province, I took advantage of the incident to state, right in that meeting, publicly and directly, in as clear a language as I could, so that it might be as clearly interpreted to the audience, composed of Christians and non-Christian Filipinos or Moros, including, not only datus, but the ordinary Moros, to say to all that this Government cannot recognize the datus as having any special right to interfere in matters affecting school service or any other service in the Government. I told the Moro sultan who had spoken, right there and then, that I should have been more pleased if he had spoken on behalf of the people of Lanao, instead of in the name of the sultans. And I added that the sultans have no more rights than the humblest Moro and that under my administration the humblest Moro and that under my administration the humblest Moro will be given as much protection as any datu under the law, and that his rights will be recognized exactly as the rights of a datu will be, and that every datu will have to comply with his duties as a citizen to the same extent and in the same manner that the humblest Moro is obligated.

What I then said to that sultan must be the guiding principle for every official of this Government, from the Secretary of the Interior down to the last policeman, in dealing with the Moros and their datus.

3. I am inclined to believe now that the time has come for the appointment of civilian governors in every province largely or partly inhabited by Mohammedan Filipinos. You know from several conferences we have had heretofore that I thought it would be wiser to continue for a time at least with Constabulary officers as governors of Lanao, Cotabato, and Jolo. Of late I have given more thought to this matter, and after hearing the opinion of the Members of the National Assembly representing districts where a Constabulary official is Governor, I have come to the conclusion that as soon as we can find the right men from amongst civilians, we should appoint them as governors for these provinces. The reasons which have convinced me to take this wise step are the following:

(a) The inhabitants of these provinces—both Mohammedans and Christians—should have before their eyes a tangible evidence that a great change has taken place in the National Government of the Philippines. All along they have had uniformed men as their governors—men who in the eyes of the average man represent that side of the Government which means force. Particularly, the Mohammedan Filipinos or Moros have seen these men in uniform in armed conflict with their brothers, relatives, or townsmen, who in the past have attempted to resist the Government by violence. It is natural, therefore, that in their subconscious mind they should see in these governors, not the representative of a government that uses persuasive advice in getting the people to obey its laws; not the representative of a government that is desirous to be helpful to its citizens, but the representative of a government that uses only force in dealing with the people. We must change this mental attitude which, rightly or wrongly, consciously or unconsciously, seems to prevail especially among the Moros of the provinces above mentioned. Let them see from now on as the head of the government in their respective provinces a civilian—a man without uniform and without arms, and who will not have, if and when it may be necessary, to lead the armed forces of the Government against violations of the law by armed groups. Let these governors speak to the people about the peaceful objectives of the Government carried through peaceful means. Let these governors visit their respective provinces constantly and mingle with the common man, see him in his home, on his farm, talk to the masses and tell them in what way the Government can be of help to them in improving their agriculture, their small trade, in ameliorating the hardships of their lives, in raising their standard of living, in combating disease, in creating sanitary conditions, and in protecting them against abuses from evil persons. In one word, let the inhabitants of these provinces to which I am referring, feel toward the Government, by means of civilian officials that we will place at

the head of these provinces, exactly as the average good citizens of other provinces of the Philippines feel toward the Government of their country.

Please proceed, as soon as you can, to get information from all sources as to who are the men who could do this work well in Mindanao, and submit to me a list from which I may pick the men I shall appoint. We may get men already in the government service, or outside the service, men who have shown executive and administrative ability, industry, and above all, an unimpeachable honesty.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL L. QUEZON**

Letter from the Secretary to the President to Datu Amilbanga: Three-point policy for Mindanao and Sulu
Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

Letter from the Secretary to the President to Datu Amilbanga
Three-point policy for Mindanao and Sulu
[October 8, 1937]

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that your letter of the 2nd instant, addressed to His Excellency, the President, in which you comment on his “three-point policy” on the affairs of Mindanao and Sulu, has been received. In this connection permit me to call your attention to the fact that in his memorandum to the Secretary of the Interior dated September 20, 1937, His Excellency does not seek to interfere with the use of titles by Moro sultans or datos so long as it is clearly understood that a title carries with it no official rights or privileges. What the President desires to emphasize is that there are no privileged classes under this Government and no authority vested on any individual not occupying an official position. In other words, the President is determined to consider and to act towards the Mohammedan Filipinos as he considers and acts towards the Christians, precisely because he agrees with you that the so-called Moro problem is a myth.

His Excellency appreciates your kind interest in his administration, particularly in matters affecting your district, and he wishes me to inform you that your recommendation for the retention of Major Leon Angeles as Provincial Governor of Sulu for the time being, will be given due consideration.

Very respectfully,

JORGE B. VARGAS
Secretary to the President

*This is a reply to a letter of Assemblyman Ombra Amilbanga’s, which is as follows:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MANILA

Letter from Datu Amilbanga to the President of the Philippines

[October 2, 1937]

Dear Mr. President:

1. In recent issues of the local dailies, I read with deep interest the released copy of Your Excellency’s Memorandum, addressed to the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, in which Your Excellency’s “Three-Point Policies,” defining how affairs in Moroland are to be administered, was embodied. As Your Excellency’s loyal supporter, I cannot let the news pass without commenting on the policies, especially in their relations to my district.

2. The policy of giving a free hand to the Commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu on all plans he may deem fit to execute is indeed plausible and commendable, and it could not have been otherwise. As a matter of fact, I joined Assemblymen Fortich and Cabili in endorsing that policy to Your Excellency when the measure was yet pending the action of the National Assembly.

3. As to the non-recognition of the various titles, a practice still adhered to by the various Mohammedan elements in Mindanao and Sulu, I think, Mr. President, the policy as released covering this subject was most unnecessary, as the non-recognition has already taken effect since the abrogation of the Bates Treaty and the implantation of the Civil Government in the regions referred to. In the agreement concluded between the Sultan of Sulu and Frank Carpenter, then Secretary of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, the former is recognized as a temporal head of that region and as such his office is confined to religious activities. In the light of these facts the Government, I think, Mr. President, has no right to interfere with them so long as no law or order is infringed. The religious titles ever since in vogue in the Mohammedan regions are akin to religious titles enjoyed and practiced by the different Christian sects.

4. The policy of suppressing the practice of appointing army officers as governors in Moro provinces is one thing about which I beg to be allowed to discuss at length and with liberty. The administration dating back to the early American administrators, had initiated various policies principally intended to maintain peace and order, but lamentably never promulgated policies to effect universal improvement in those regions. As a result of this uncomprehensive plan, the accomplishments were nothing more than the blowing out of the Moro cottas and enactment of other bloody dramas. Judging from the records of the past, it seems that questions of efficiency of administration in Moroland depend in a large measure, upon the personal ability, integrity and far-sightedness of the local administrator rather than by imposing rigid obedience to mutable policies.

5. Regarding the present incumbent, Major Leon Angeles, his administration since his appointment is one worthy of praise and commendation. His experience and adeptness in understanding conditions obtaining in the province, make him the most logical man to remain in the position for sometime until Your Excellency think otherwise. He is the most capable Filipino governor ever appointed to that position. I believe that in justice to the incumbent, Your Excellency should allow him to remain for sometime in order that he could accomplish the projects he has just started.

6. Talks of Moro problems, both of the past and the present, have been the topics deafening the ears of the public. The Moros, myself included, are ignorant of the so-called Moro problems, and we emphatically deny its existence.

7. In passing, I beg leave to state that in Mindanao Your Excellency has two groups of supporters: the first are those who readily yield assent to what Your Excellency say, and the second, those who study Your Excellency's policy and offer constructive criticisms and suggestions to the end that the country may be benefited. I am happy that I belong to the second group so that if I express myself openly and frankly, it is because it is my honest and sincere belief that in doing so, I am helping and cooperating with Your Excellency to perfect a policy conducive to the general welfare of my people.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) **SULTAN OMBRA AMILBANGSA**
Assemblyman of Sulu

Conversation between President Quezon and United States High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt on Occupation Day American-Filipino Relations, August 14, 1938

CONVERSATION

BETWEEN

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

AND

HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL V. McNUTT
UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE PHILIPPINES

ON OCCUPATION DAY AMERICAN-FILIPINO RELATIONS

[Broadcast over Station KZRM, Manila, August 14, 1938]

HIGH COMMISSIONER MCNUTT. For the information of American listeners, this is Sunday morning, and I am speaking from Manila, the capital and metropolis of the Philippine Islands. These islands, some 7,000 in number, are situated off the coast of the continent of Asia and have an estimated population of 15 million. Nature has favored the archipelago by bestowing her riches with a lavish hand. Collectively, the Philippine Islands and their people make up the self-governing Commonwealth of the Philippines, but the Commonwealth is a part of the United States with authority retained that is commensurate with the responsibilities of sovereignty.

August 13, 1938, marks the fortieth anniversary of the occupation of Manila by the American forces. By proclamation of the Honorable Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines, the day was declared a special national holiday, "the observance of which," to make use of the language of the proclamation, "shall be a symbol of our esteem and gratitude." In Manila a mammoth parade was held, at the head of which marched President Quezon, who after reviewing the participants in the seemingly never ending procession, delivered an address, in which he voiced the deep-felt gratitude of the Filipino people for the benefits brought to his native land by the representatives of the American people. As a symbol of the chain of friendship binding together the two peoples, there were presented to me for the President of the United States, two flags, one the American Flag and the other the Filipino Flag. President Quezon sits across from me, and if I may be permitted, I would like to tell him on behalf of my fellow countrymen that his action in making possible a nation-wide demonstration of loyalty and thankfulness was a generous manifestation fully appreciated by the American people.

PRESIDENT QUEZON. High Commissioner McNutt, I desire you and my American friends to know that the celebration of August 13 this year by the Filipino people was no meaningless gesture. Occasionally a few captious critics have accused the Filipinos of lacking a sense of gratitude for the splendid gifts showered on them by your beneficent nation. I want to dissipate any such thought, if it ever existed. I wish to show by concrete action, as well as by words, how much the Filipino people have appreciated their close association with the United States during the past four decades. Under American tutelage, the Philippines has developed in many ways; particularly, economically, by raising the standard of living, and politically, by the inauguration of a democratic Commonwealth based on the consent of the governed. It is just and fitting, therefore, that we render honor to the great democracy of the United States of America for the unparalleled progress and development that have been the fruits of her policy in the Philippines.

HIGH COMMISSIONER MCNUTT. I quite agree with you, President Quezon, that the Philippine chapter in American history is one which can be read with satisfaction by Americans and Filipinos alike. The representatives of the American people in their dealings with the Philippine Inlands and their people have ever been actuated by a firm purpose to follow the high course of action. The avowed policy of the American administration, in the past, was

to govern the Islands, having regard to the interest and welfare of the Filipino people. That altruistic concept America's mission in the Philippines still guides us in our relations with the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Filipino people. The Philippines has been treated not as colonies have been treated, but the people of the Islands have been considered as partners in a great and worthy enterprise. If as one result of American policy in the Philippines, the position of the United States in Far Eastern affairs has been enhanced, and if American trade has gained a market, no one has just cause for complaint. The record of my country in this far distant outpost is one to which I point with justifiable pride.

The day celebrated so splendidly yesterday throughout the Philippines was the observance of the last act in the Spanish-American War. I wonder, Mr. President, what your thoughts of Spanish rule are, and what your attitude is concerning the American veterans of a war against whom you later were to fight.

PRESIDENT QUEZON. I am glad, Mr. High Commissioner, that you brought up those two points. I received my education principally during Spanish days and I am acquainted with conditions then existing. It is true we revolted against Spain, but that fact does not mean a lack of present day understanding of the advantages which came to us as a result of the Spanish administration. Certainly we were given the rudiments of Latin culture and received the blessings of the Christian faith. Because we thank the United States does not signify any weakening of affection for Spain for what she did for our country. As for the American veterans of the Spanish-American War and the subsequent Filipino-American differences, permit me to say in all sincerity that they have proved themselves to be useful citizens of the Philippines. They are the men who have made their homes among us and have cooperated effectively in the development of our national resources. I think of these fine Americans no longer as enemies, but as true friends of the Filipinos.

HIGH COMMISSIONER MCNUTT. I notice, Mr. President, that you have acquired one American trait, or perhaps it came to you intuitively, which is that of sportsmanship. I am, likewise, of the opinion that in giving credit to the United States for her work in the Philippines, we do not detract thereby from the labor of Spain here. I also believe that too much praise cannot be given the Americans, mostly volunteers, who participated on the American side in the Spanish-American War and the Filipino insurrection, and who after retirement from the Army settled in the Philippines. I know many of these Americans personally, and I am acquainted with others by reputation and they deserve all the word's of praise which you, who once fought against them, so generously bestow on them.

Another thought comes to me at this time. It concerns the cooperation of the Filipino people with the American people in the development of the Philippines. In effect, it was a partnership between the two races which has been in operation. To the offer of assistance proffered by American leaders came an answer of acceptance by Filipino leaders, which permitted the solving of acute problems in education, in sanitation, in finance, in trade, in public order, and in other equally important matters. During this entire period, the Filipinos have been loyal to the American flag as was well demonstrated during the great World War. The Filipinos have met halfway American advances intended for the ultimate good of the Philippines. Yesterday, Mr. President, and again this morning, you have expressed for yourself and the Filipino people their appreciation for what the United States has done for the Philippines. In response, permit me to thank you and through you the Filipino people for what they have done in a true spirit of understanding and cooperation for the United States, in the accomplishment of measures mutually beneficial to the American and Filipino peoples.

President Quezon, at yesterday's Occupation Day exercises in Manila, you handed me for presentation to the President of the United States, a beautiful American Flag and an equally beautiful Filipino Flag. I received those symbols of American and Philippine patriotism with a feeling of grateful appreciation which, I am confident, is shared by President Roosevelt. The two flags will, in due time, reach the White House and the President. Thus the ties binding the United States and the Philippines will be made closer and firmer, and the Philippine community generally will have made partial acknowledgment for all the President has done for the Islands.

PRESIDENT QUEZON. The Filipino people have never had a better and truer friend than President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Every act taken by him having to do with the relations between his country and my country has been actuated by a desire to deal fairly and honorably with us in the Philippines. President Roosevelt made possible approval of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, which provided for the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. He likewise lent his aid to us so that we could secure large processing taxes now being used to develop

our latent wealth. He sponsored the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs which recently made its report. He has given assurances that our gradually increasing dependence on our own economic forces will be cushioned and safeguarded. He has sent to us as his representatives to fill important civilian and military posts distinguished Americans who have been wise in counsel. When the annals of American-Philippine relations are written by some future historian, in them will appear in a conspicuous place the name of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the benefactor and friend of the Filipino people.

HIGH COMMISSIONER MCNUTT. I am in full agreement, President Quezon, with your words descriptive of the leading role assumed by the President of the United States in steering Philippine questions to right conclusions. No one can entirely appreciate the immense amount of time and thought that he has given to the settlement of Philippine issues. His viewpoint has ever been to act fairly on all matters that concerned the Filipino people. I am sure that the people of the Philippines can look with confidence to President Roosevelt to grant them sympathetic hearings and to reach just decisions on their petitions.

Before we conclude, Mr. President, let me ask you a question, and a hard one. What about the future of the Philippines?

PRESIDENT QUEZON. I am no prophet, Mr. High Commissioner, but let me say this: We Filipinos are laying plans intended to safeguard our patrimony. We also feel certain that America will continue to lend a sympathetic ear to our reasonable petitions. Yesterday in my address following the Occupation Day parade, in speaking of the ties that bind the United States and the Philippines together, I said, and now reiterate:

“Our aims, our hopes, our appreciations are the same. In the great moral causes, the great causes of righteousness, of liberty, of peace, the great causes which mean the perpetuation of the spiritual things of life, the United States and the Philippines are going on in complete unison with each other, not dominating nor conspiring against each other, but going on in complete accord with each other, because in the essential things, we are in absolute and hearty agreement.”

I look with every confidence to the future.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, recurring to the statement of American policy, as early expressed by President William McKinley, the Filipinos have, I believe, fulfilled his cherished hope, for they can, and do, look back with gratitude to the day when destiny placed their land under the guidance of the people of the United States.

HIGH COMMISSIONER MCNUTT. Thank you, President Quezon, for your assurances regarding continued Filipino-American friendship. Let us strive to understand each other. Let us strive to solve our mutual problems tolerantly and wisely. Let us strive to maintain the position of the United States as a great democratic state, devoted to the cause of peace and to making more secure the Commonwealth of the Philippines, another democracy, which Providence has brought within the sphere of American influence.

Good morning to the radio audience of the Philippines Good evening to my fellow countrymen in the homeland.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Memorandum written for President Quezon on payment of per diems to Vice-Mayors and Councilors of Municipalities of specially organized provinces and municipal districts of all provinces, June 17, 1939

MEMORANDUM

WRITTEN FOR

HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL L. QUEZON
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES ON

**PAYMENT OF PER DIEMS TO VICE-MAYORS AND COUNCIL-
ORS OF MUNICIPALITIES OF SPECIALLY ORGANIZED
PROVINCES AND MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS
OF ALL PROVINCES**

[June 17, 1939]

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior:

In connection with Bill No. 217, entitled "An Act authorizing the payment of per diems to vice-mayors and councilors of the municipalities of specially organized provinces and of the municipal districts of all provinces," which the President has allowed to become a law without his signature, and is now Commonwealth Act No. 479, His Excellency desires that the Department of the Interior do not approve any compensation for vice-mayors and councilors in specially organized provinces where the granting of such compensation may require the giving of national aid or the increase of any aid already given to the province or municipality concerned.

(Sgd.) JORGE B. VARGAS
Secretary to the President

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Resume of Remarks of President Quezon at a dinner in honor of Vice-President Osmeña's return from the United States, November 2, 1939

**Resume of Remarks
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
At a dinner in honor of Vice-President Osmeña's return from the United States**

[Delivered at Malacañang Palace, November 2, 1939]

NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY

Absolute national unity under the aegis of which the best elements in the country will pull loyally together in the common effort of preparing the country for independence, is the main concern of the administration. We are preparing the people for independence, counting with the best elements in the country, so that the Philippines shall achieve independence on a solid basis.

National unity, unmarred by the political bickering unavoidable in a two-party system, is the only condition that will give the Filipino people the best opportunity to prepare themselves adequately for the responsibilities of complete independence on July 4, 1946. This was the central theme of extemporaneous remarks made by President Manuel L. Quezon and Vice-President Sergio Osmeña at a "welcome home" dinner given by the Quezons in honor of the Osmeñas at Malacañang Palace.

In the historic hall of the Palace, where the destiny of the country has more than once been decided, the two great leaders of the Filipino people exchanged mutual congratulations for their incomputable services to the nation; they made important commentaries on decisive political events in order to set the record straight.

Mutual High Regard

The affirmation of mutual high regard and the commentaries on crucial events in the history of the country, in which the two had played leading roles, were made in the presence of the highest officials of the land, the political personages who have hitherto rallied around one or the leader. Quezon-anti leaders sat side and exchanged cordial greetings with Osmeña-pro lieutenants.

Absolute national unity, under the aegis of which "the best elements in the country" will pull loyally together in the common effort of preparing the country for independence, is the main concern of the Quezon administration, the President said in his remarks.

"We are preparing the people," he said in all solemnity, "for independence, counting with the best elements in the country, so that the Philippines shall achieve independence on a solid basis."

Throughout his remarks, particularly in his recollection on the significant political moves he and Vice-President Osmeña made on various occasions, including their temporary estrangement and their subsequent reconciliation, President Quezon left no doubt in the minds of those present of his behalf in the Nationalist Party's capability at this stage of Philippine nationhood to establish that absolute unity which both he and Mr. Osmeña declared as the indispensable basis for successful independence.

QUEZON LAUDS OSMEÑA

In praising Vice-President Osmeña for his brilliant career in public service, which was climaxed by his successful work in Washington where he obtained changes in the economic provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Independence Act, President Quezon took occasion to affirm that Mr. Osmeña's record is now rounded off, an important gap filled, so that it can be said now with truth, that "among Filipinos living, nobody can say that he has rendered better service to the country than Vice-President Osmeña."

The gap referred to by President Quezon, in recalling the political career of the Vice-President, was explained by him in a brief narrative every detail of which was followed with bated breath by the 41 guests present. In honoring Vice-President Osmeña, the President said, he was particularly pleased in bringing up, in order to set the record straight, what he considered an error in the brilliant career of the Vice-President.

He called attention to the fact that everybody knows the close relations he has with the Vice-President. They were classmates, he said; they lived in the same room for many years, passed the bar examinations on the same day, and were elected governor and assemblymen on the same date. For the success of the same party, they fought for many years; it was therefore natural under all those circumstances, the President said, that deep friendship has developed between the two, a friendship which survived the vicissitudes of life.

Friendship Unshaken

That there have been political differences between the two is known to all, President continued, but the friendship formed early in their lives was so strong that in the midst of their fights they did not lose the friendly feeling and high esteem they held for each other.

Following this preface, the President went on to cite what he considered the error Vice-President Osmeña had made in his political career. President Quezon recalled that when the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act was rejected by the Philippine Legislature, he decided to head a mission to the United States, and he invited Mr. Osmeña, who was then the head of the pro faction of the Nationalist Party, to come along. President Quezon believed he explained, that inasmuch as he was going to work for the enactment of an independence law which was of greater advantages to the Filipino people, he considered it not only a duty of Vice-President Osmeña as a patriot but also as a friend. He invited Mr. Osmeña, he narrated, to a conference at which was present mutual friend, Miguel Unson in whom both had confidence.

With Mr. Unson, as witness to his good faith, President Quezon recalled, he explained to Vice-President Osmeña the reasons he wanted him to be with him in Washington. Failing to convince him, the President went further by assuring Mr. Osmeña if he went along, and the mission succeeded, he stood to gain something, but if it failed, he would lose nothing, since President Quezon would assume the whole responsibility.

"Most Painful Moment"

Mr. Osmeña, at that, promised to consider the matter, but later rejected the offer, the President recalled. "I want to say, now," President Quezon emphasized at this juncture, "that I have remembered that as the most painful moment of my life. The Vice-President, being a very good friend of mine, I did not want to see his long brilliant public career spoiled." Narrating further, the President recalled how he went to the United States, without Mr. Osmeña, and secured desirable changes in the independence law.

He admitted, however, that the Tydings-McDuffie Independence Act, as finally passed by Congress and accepted by the Filipino people, still had objectionable features which it was impossible at that time to correct. As a matter of fact, he explained, the law had provisions which, if carried out, would obstruct the progress of the country toward complete independence.

President Quezon was evidently alluding to the unsatisfactory economic provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie law, because he explained later, that up to the time when Vice-President Osmeña went to the United States on his last mission and successfully obtained the amendments to the economic provisions of the law as contained now in the

Tydings-Kocalkowski Act, he considered Vice-President Osmeña as having left a serious gap in his record of patriotic service to the country.

The Gap Closed

The gap, President Quezon considered filled, however, when Vice-President Osmeña brought back the Philippine economic adjustment act which improves the economic provisions of the independence law. With the accomplishment by Mr. Osmeña of this important task, in the course of the struggle of the Philippines for liberty and independence, it is now possible to say that the latest phase of the country's struggle for independent nationhood has been the work, not of any one man or group of men, or of a political faction, but that of the Nationalist Party as a whole.

The present Nationalist Party, he pointed out, is the result of the fusion of the Quezon-anti and the Osmeña-pro factions. It is the party which had split before and has reunited, he explained.

President Quezon then went on to say, in deliberate tone, what Vice-President Osmeña in his last mission was able to perform, he could very well have done as the Senator Osmeña whom he invited to come along with him to Washington on that most important mission in 1934. The implicit meaning of the President was that, if Mr. Osmeña went with him on that mission, the two, jointly, could have secured an independence act which would have contained economic provisions much more advantageous to the Philippines than the Tydings-McDuffie Act.

For the Commonwealth

The commentary on that important event having been clarified by President Quezon, he went on to describe his efforts, upon the establishment of the Commonwealth, of preparing the country for complete independence. His main concern, of course, he explained, was to pave the way for the correction of the objectionable features of the independence act. He recalled his work which led to the creation of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs, in the composition of the Philippine group of which, he explained, he named members who represented not only the best men available in the Philippines but also the two political organizations that existed prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth.

That move for the preservation of national unity was necessary, the President declared, because he had then realized that political schisms, if allowed in the young country, would imperil the success of independence. So, at this point of his remarks, he distressed to recount his experiences in trying to establish in the Philippines a strong two-party system.

To complete the work of wetting the record straight, the President continued, he had another revelation to make. And he recounted the political schism which he provoked when Vice-President Osmeña was head of the majority party in the Philippines. He was then in favor of a strong two-party system not only would be better served but also strengthened. And knowing that the only party that counted then was the old Nationalist Party, headed by Osmeña, he provoked an issue, that of collectivism, which he advocated as against what he called the unipersonalism of Mr. Osmeña. He sincerely hoped then, the President said with a wry smile, that the welfare of the country as well as democracy as a system of government being implanted here would be greatly strengthened.

Saw His Error

"I saw my error on this point," the President said, when instead of a strong two-party government being formed, there developed many politician parties. He explained that while he was in favor of a government made up of two strong parties, he realized the danger of a government with numerous political parties. So, he said, at the height of the campaign for Philippine Independence, the collectivist group which he headed united with the unipersonalist, headed by Mr. Osmeña, to form the Nationalist party which later, in 1934, as he already recounted, split again on the issue of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, only to be reunited once more upon the establishment of the Commonwealth.

He saw, the President further recalled, how much mistaken he was in his hopes and expectations about a two-party system when, during the controversy over the Hare-Hawes-Cutting law, passions ran high and the fight was waged with dirty and inexcusable methods.

In that political fight, he said, he saw patriots losing their heads, sacrificing the best interests of the country in what they believed, in good faith, they should do for their own political group.

That bitter fight, the President concluded, convinced him that the two parties in a democracy were good only in theory. Because of that conviction, he declared, he sought the reunion of the pros and antis soon after the acceptance by the Filipino people of the Tydings-McDuffie Act. "The result of that union," the President said with a happy and proud note in his voice, "you all see."

Gratitude of the People

The President wound up his remarks with high praise for Vice-President Osmeña. "I congratulate Vice-President Osmeña," he concluded, "and I want to echo the gratitude of the people. His history is made, his merits are recognized. Among Filipinos living, nobody can say that he has rendered better service to the country than Vice-President Osmeña."

The President then proposed a toast for Vice-President and Mrs. Osmeña.

As the President sat down, Vice-President Osmeña, visibly moved by the tribute paid him by a life-long friend, arose to reply to the toast of the President.

The Vice-President started his speech by giving thanks in his name and that Mrs. Osmeña for the hospitality and the congratulations extended by the President. He took advantage of the opportunity to give once more public testimony of the gratitude of the mission for the firm and constant support it received from the President. The Vice-President said he did not believe that any representative sent abroad by any country has ever enjoyed a support from the home government more determined than that which the Mission received from the head of the Commonwealth government. To this support must be ascribed the principal credit for the happy result, he emphasized.

"We Were Soldiers. . ."

"We went to the United States," the Vice-President affirmed, "were mere emissaries, soldiers in the trenches; our strength and our inspiration came from those who sent us." This strength and this inspiration had the fullest effect when they came from a united nation. Nothing handicaps the labors of the representatives of a country abroad so much as the existence of a division of opinion in the population at home.

The Vice-President said that there existed in the United States a favorable opinion towards the present administration in the Philippines. The people there recognize the progress made by the Philippines in all fields under the leadership of President Quezon and one of the most important achievements of the administration is that of having maintained and consolidated the unity of the nation.

The tendency towards division is quite common among nations that are newly-born, and the Philippines naturally is not an exception to this rule, Vice-President Osmeña said. In fact, in the past our people had witnessed, to their sorrow, divisions of this kind, not only during the epoch of the Filipino propagandists in Europe, but also during the critical days of the revolution.

Unity Under Quezon

"That during the first years of the Commonwealth under the wise direction of President Quezon the unity of the country has been maintained and strengthened," he said, "is something that should be a source of satisfaction to all of us. For my part, the maintenance of this unity has been the guiding principle throughout my public career. In the

provincial government of Cebu and, later, in the Philippine Assembly it was my principal concern to contribute all I could to the maintenance of our national unity.

“This was also my cardinal thought during the days of the Philippine Senate, including the time to which the President has just referred when the Nationalist party having been divided into two groups as a result of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law issue; it seemed that those of us who had been together for so many years and had worked constantly for union were definitely destined to be in opposite camps.”

At this point Mr. Osmeña took up the reference which President Quezon had made to his refusal to go with the mission headed by President Quezon to the United States to work for a new independence law in place of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law, which had been rejected by the Legislature. The Vice-President said no one regretted more than he did the decision, which he was forced to make, not to go to the United States with the new mission, but he said this decision was imposed upon him by circumstances and that after long and careful thought, he reached the conclusion that the patriotic thing for him to do was to remain in the Philippines to work for a united support, which was later attained, for the new independence law.

Common Efforts

Mr. Osmeña agreed with the declaration of President Quezon that with the approval of the amendments to the Independence Act, this law, as now amended, is already the result of the common labor of the two wings of the Nationalist party now reunited, and as a consequence, the last traces of the division caused by the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law have been eliminated.

The preservation of national unity is one of the primary objectives of the present administration and undoubtedly will continue to be the primary objective of future administrations, he emphasized. This is so because “we are all vitally interested in maintaining this unity in order that we may promote to the greatest extent possible the peace, the prosperity, and the happiness of the nations.”

Taking advantage of the occasion the Vice-President offered to President Quezon the fountain pen used by the President of the United States in signing the new law for the Philippines. The Vice-President said he thought it most appropriate that this pen should be given to President Quezon since it was the President who initiated the negotiations which led to the approval of the law and who assumed the final responsibility on the part of the Filipinos at every step in the various stages of the process. “This pen,” he concluded, “is symbol of the sentiments of friendship and sympathy subsisting between the American and the Filipino people and will serve as a reminder to all Filipinos, that through the maintenance of national unity, they will find the best opportunity to prepare themselves for the responsibility of independence on July 4, 1946. The Vice-President then offered a toast to President and Mrs. Quezon.

Those present at the dinner were: The President and Mrs. Quezon, the Vice-President and Mrs. Osmeña, General and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, Speaker and Mrs. Jose Yulo, Chief Justice and Mrs. Ramon Avanceña, Secretary and Rafael R. Alunan, Secretary Manuel Roxas, Secretary and Mrs. Jose Abad Santos, Secretary and Mrs. Benigno Aquino, Secretary M. Jesus Cuenco, Secretary and Mrs. Jorge Bocobo, Secretary and Mrs. Jose Avelino, Secretary Teofilo Sison, Secretary and Mrs. Jorge B. Vargas, Assemblyman Agustin Kintanar, Auditor-General and Mrs. Jaime Hernandez, Commissioner and Mrs. Serafin Marabut, Hon. and Mrs. J. Weldon Jones, Justice Antonio Horilleno, Mr. and Mrs. Golden W. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury Willoughby, Mayor and Mrs. Juan Posadas, Jr., Vicente Madrigal and Major Manuel Nieto.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Quezon, M. L. (1939). [Need for National Unity]. University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library.

Resumé of the extemporaneous speech of President Quezon before the Executive Commission of the Nationalist Party, Assemblymen, Provincial Governors and Mayors of Chartered Cities

**Speech
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
Before the Executive Commission of the Nationalist Party, Assemblymen, Provincial Governors and Mayors
of Chartered Cities**

[Released on December 11, 1939]

THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY

Speaker Jose Yulo is one of the greatest men the Philippines has ever produced, and the future of the Nationalist party is safe in his hand. The Nationalist party which has successfully won for the country the independence it has fought for during more than a generation has never been in better hands than in Speaker Yulo's who has been its head since May of this year.

The President then called attention to the need for unity in the party at this crucial time in the history of the country, urging the high officials of the party present and the provincial and city executives to pull together in carrying out successfully the commitments of the party. He intimated that among the most important commitments of the party are the constitutional amendments which were incorporated, into the platform at the national convention last July.

As head of the party, and as one of the most valuable men in the government at present, Speaker Yulo is entitled not only to all the cooperation the party members can give but also to honors even higher than those the country has accorded him so far, the President is reported to have said.

The eulogy paid by the President to Speaker Yulo was delivered with such earnestness that the big audience of party men, governors, and mayors was moved deeply as the President recounted his impression of Mr. Yulo's ability and character, and pointed out the great opportunities that lie before the Nationalist party under such sterling leadership.

The big moguls of the party present, including Floor Leader Quintin Paredes, vice-president, former Secretary Eulogio Rodriguez, general campaign manager, and Secretary of Labor Jose Avelino, member of the executive commission of the cabinet, applauded these remarks of the President enthusiastically.

The President's appeal for party unity, especially when he pointed out that the official commitments of the government which the party has established can not be accomplished unless the rank and file, as well as the members of the high council, pulled together, was likewise greeted by enthusiastic applause from the governors and mayors present at the luncheon meeting.

President Quezon, in recounting the brilliant record of Speaker Yulo, both as lawyer and later as high official of the government, declared that the Philippine public has yet to realize fully the greatness and value of Mr. Yulo as a public man. He intimated that this is due to the retiring nature of Mr. Yulo who has never courted the public gaze.

The President revealed that his attention was first attracted to Mr. Yulo's brilliant talent when as member of the law firm, Paredes, Buencamino and Yulo, he represented the Filipinos side in the now famous board of control case so ably, the President said, that from then on he watched closely with increasing admiration every important step in the career of Mr. Yulo.

The board of control case had to be taken to the federal supreme court and the best legal talent of the Islands was sought by the government, both officially and extra-officially, to present its side. President Quezon attributed the splendid presentation of the government's side to the counsel of then Attorney Jose Yulo.

The President revealed that his admiration for Speaker Yulo was no more strongly confirmed than on one occasion when he offered the latter a seat in the Supreme Court. Speaker Yulo refused the offer for reasons, according to the President, that revealed the greatness of the man's character. He explained that he was still young, and that he had before him a long career in the law which he wished to pursue. If he accepted the position, the then Attorney Yulo said, he could never leave it afterwards in order to practice his profession, as he would not wish to take advantage of his former high position for purposes of gain.

This attitude of the Speaker, said the President, convinced him that here was a man who deserved and was destined to hold a high position in the leadership of the country.

President Quezon also highly commended Mr. Yulo for his brilliant achievements as secretary of justice and later as speaker of the Assembly.

In a speech opening the meeting, Speaker Yulo explained that the purpose of the luncheon was to give the governors an opportunity to get acquainted with the assemblymen and to give the provincial executives a chance to elect their representatives to the national executive commission.

The governors are now entitled to 12 representatives in the national executive commission, whereas in the past they had only 5 delegates.

Speaker Yulo revealed that he has always been in favor of increasing the representation of the governors to the commission in response to the request of the provincial executive themselves, and that he was glad this increase in representation was granted under his presidency of the party.

It was learned later that the governors will grant Governor Sotero Baluyot full authority to select this representatives to the commission on the basis of one representative to each senatorial district.

Source: **University Archives, University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Agreement on the Atlantic Charter, August 14, 1941

THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

This is the famous agreement arrived at by and between the heads of the Governments of the United States and Great Britain on board the U. S. S. “Augusta” and H. M. S. “Prince of Wales,” and subsequently dated August 14, 1941:

The President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

First, Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

Second, They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth, They will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

Fifth, They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic-advancement and social security;

Sixth, After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh, Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth, They believe that all the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea, or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

August 14, 1941.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Telegram of President Roosevelt to President Quezon, December 11, 1941

December 11, 1941

Your renewed assurances of the devotion and loyalty of the Philippine people to the United States and to democracy are particularly appreciated in this grave hour. The hearts of all Americans are deeply touched by the fortitude and gallantry being shown by your people in this present ordeal. We are at one with you in our faith in the ultimate triumph of our common ideals.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Extract from the Sixth Annual Report of the United States High Commissioner to the Philippines

**Extract
from the Sixth Annual Report of the United States High Commissioner
To the Philippines covering the Fiscal Year July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1942**

[Released on December 22, 1941]

The following extract from the Sixth Annual Report of the United States High Commissioner to the Philippines, covering the Fiscal Year July 1, 1941, to June 30, 1942, reproduces the Act of Congress of December 22, 1941, suspending the collection of the export tax and the progressive reduction of quotas as prescribed by section 6 (as amended) of the Philippine Independence Act:

By the Act of December 22, 1941 (ch. 617, 55 Stat. 582) the collection of the export tax and the progressive reduction of quotas, as prescribed by section 6 (as amended) of the Philippine Independence Act, are suspended through December 31, 1942, and are to be resumed on January 1, 1943. The amendment provides as follows:

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the imposition and collection of the export tax prescribed by section 6 of the Act of March 24, 1934, entitled, An Act to provide for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands, to provide for the adoption of a constitution and a form of government for the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes’ (48 Stat. 456), as amended by the Act of August 7, 1939 (53 Stat. 1226; U. S. C, Supp. V, title 48, sec. 1236), shall be suspended for a period commencing on and after the date following the approval of this Act and ending on December 31, 1942.

“On January 1, 1943, the imposition of such export tax shall be resumed, the tax rate effective for said calendar year to be the same as the rate in effect at the time the tax was suspended; on each succeeding January 1 thereafter the export tax shall be increased progressively by an additional 5 per centum of the United States duty, except that during the period January 1, 1946, through July 3, 1946, the export tax shall remain at 15 per centum of the United States duty.

“SEC. 2. That the progressive reduction of the quotas of the Philippine articles of a class or kind in respect of which a quota is established by subdivision 3, subsection (b), section 6 of the said Act of March 24, 1934, as amended, shall be suspended for a period commencing on and after the date following the approval of this Act and ending on December 31, 1942; the original quotas established by that subdivision for the year 1940 shall be in effect during the suspension.

“On January 1, 1943, the progressive reduction of the quotas provided for in subdivision 3, subsection (b), section 6 of the said Act of March 24, 1934, as amended, shall be resumed, the rate of reduction effective for said calendar year to be the same as the rate in effect at the time the said quotas were suspended; for each calendar year thereafter through the calendar year 1945, each of the said quotas shall be the same as the corresponding quota for the immediately preceding calendar year, less 5 per centum of the corresponding original quota.

“For the period January 1, 1946, through July 3, 1946, each of said quotas shall be one-half of the corresponding quota specified for the calendar year 1945.

“SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall change in any respect not herein expressly provided for the provisions of the Act of March 24, 1934, as amended.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Proclamation Making Manila an Open City, December 26, 1941

**MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA**

With the proclamation making Manila an open city and upon the advice of General MacArthur, I have decided to leave the Capital. I shall continue administering the affairs of Civil Government in cooperation with the Commanding General of the military forces from the place where I may be.

(Sgd.) **Manuel L. Quezon**

December 26, 1941

In reply refer to:

**HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
MANILA, P. I.**

In order to spare the Metropolitan area from the possible ravages of attack, either by air or ground, Manila is hereby declared an open city without the characteristics of a military objective. In order that no excuse may be given for possible mistake, the American High Commissioner, the Commonwealth Government and all combatant military installations will be withdrawn from its environs as rapidly as possible. The Municipal Government will continue to function with its police powers, reinforced by constabulary troops, so that normal protection for life and property may be preserved. Citizens are requested to maintain obedience to the constituted authorities and to continue the normal process of business.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Message of President Roosevelt to the People of the Philippines

**Message
of
His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States of America
To the People of the Philippines**

[Released on December 29, 1941]

THE ROOSEVELT PLEDGE

To the People of the Philippines:

News of your gallant struggle against the Japanese aggressor has elicited the profound admiration of every American. As President of the United States, I know that I speak for all our people on this solemn occasion.

The resources of the United States, of the British Empire, of the Netherlands East Indies, and of the Chinese Republic have been dedicated by their people to the utter and complete defeat of the Japanese warlords.

In this great struggle of the Pacific, the loyal Americans of the Philippine Islands are called upon to play a crucial role. They have played, and are playing tonight, their part with the greatest gallantry. As President, I wish to express to them my feeling of sincere admiration for the fight they are now making.

The people of the United States will never forget what the people of the Philippine Islands are doing this day and will do in the days to come.

I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed, and their independence established and protected. The entire resources, in men and material, of the United States stand behind that pledge.

It is not for me or for the people of this country to tell you where your duty lies. We are engaged in a great and common cause. I count on every Philippine man, woman and child to do his duty. We will do ours.

I give you this message from the Navy:

The Navy Department tonight announces the Japanese Government is circulating rumors for the obvious purpose of persuading the United States to disclose the location and intentions of the American Pacific Fleets. It is obvious that these rumors are intended for, and directed at, the Philippine Islands. The Philippines may rest assured that while the United States Navy will not be tricked into disclosing vital information, the Fleet is not idle.

The United States Navy is following an intensive and well-planned campaign against the Japanese forces which will result in positive assistance to the defense of the Philippine Islands.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Joint Declaration by the United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Poland, South Africa, Yugoslavia, January 1, 1942

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION

Subscribing to a common program of purposes and principles embodied in the Atlantic Charter, the United Nations made on January 1, 1942, this Joint Declaration:

A joint declaration by the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Poland, South Africa, Yugoslavia.

The Governments signatory hereto,

Having subscribed to a common program of purposes and principles embodied in the Joint Declaration of the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dated August 14, 1941, known as 'the Atlantic Charter,

Being convinced that complete victory over their enemies is essential to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands, and that they are now engaged, in a common struggle against brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world. Declare:

(1) Each Government pledges itself to employ its resources, military or economic, against those member the Tripartite Pact and its adherents with which such government is at war.

(2) Each Government pledges itself to cooperate with the Governments signatory hereto and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemies.

The foregoing declaration may be adhered to by other nations which are, or which may be, rendering material assistance and contributions in the struggle for victory over Hitlerism.—Signed at Washington, D. C, January 1. 1942. For the U. S., Franklin D. Roosevelt; Great Britain, Winston S. Churchill; U. S. S. R., Maxim Litvinov; China, Tse Vung Soong; Australia, R. G. Casey; Belgium, Count R. v. d. Straten; Canada, Leighton McCarthy; Costa Rica, Luis Fernandez; Cuba, Aurelio F. Concheso; Czechoslovakia, V. S. Hurban; Dominican Republic, J. M. Troncoso; El Salvador, C. A. Alfaro; Greece, Cimon G. Dimantopoulos; Guatemala, Enrique Lopez-Herrarte; Haiti, Fernand Dennis; Honduras, Julian R. Caceres; India, Girja Shankar Bajpai; Luxembourg, Hugues le Gallais; Netherlands, A. Loudon; New Zealand, Frank Langstone; Nicaragua, Leon De Bayle; Norway, W. Munthe Morgenstierne; Panama, Jaen Guardia; Poland, Jan Ciechanowski; South Africa, Ralph W. Close; Yugoslavia, Constants A. Fotitch.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Letter of Elaine Clark addressed to President Quezon, January 11, 1942

APO 500. Rear. Echelon

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

**Letter
of
Honorable Elaine Clark
To President Manuel L. Quezon**

[Released on January 11, 1942]

My dear Mr. President,

It was indeed kind of you to send me that charming Xmas card and those perfectly lovely shoes. I have never seen any shoes quite like them before. I was absolutely delighted with them and I so much appreciate your kind thought.

As you can see by the above address I am now with Rear Echelon. I was transferred here in December. I was up in Leyte for a short time but unfortunately I was unable even to catch a fleeting glance of you. I would have loved to see you before I left.

The news appears to be excellent and according to the newspapers here it has been a great "landing" and a great success.

"It won't be long now" and I will be so happy when I read that you are back in Manila.

I often wondered if the portrait of you arrived and what you thought of it. I enjoyed having it hanging in my office so much that I hated to part with it. I am very curious to know if you thought it was good work.

Again so many thanks it was a great thrill for me today when that parcel arrived.

With sincere regards and my very best wishes to you for 1945.

From Elaine Clark
Capt. Hq Com of Office
GHQ APO 500 Rear Echelon

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Clark, E. (1942). [Letter of Elaine Clark addressed to President Manuel L. Quezon]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Telegram from President Roosevelt to President Quezon regarding his letter to Field Marshal MacArthur, January 30, 1942

Washington, January 30, 1942

Subject: Radiogram from General MacArthur quoting President Quezon

I have read with complete understanding your letter to General MacArthur. I realize the depth and sincerity of your sentiments with respect to your inescapable duties to your own people and I assure you that I would be the last to demand of you and them any sacrifice which I considered hopeless in the furtherance of the cause for which we are all striving. I want, however, to state with all possible emphasis that the magnificent resistance of the defenders of Bataan is contributing definitely toward assuring the completeness of our final victory in the Far East. The gaps existing in our offensive armaments are those that are to be expected when peace-loving countries such as the United States and the Philippines suddenly find themselves attacked by autocratic power which spent years in preparation for armed conflict. Initial defeats, privations and suffering are the inevitable consequences to democracy in such circumstances. But I have pledged to the attainment of ultimate victory the full manpower, finances and material resources of this country; and this pledge of victory includes as an essential objective the restoration of peace and tranquility in the Philippines and its return to the control of a Government of its own choosing.

While I cannot now indicate the time at which succor and assistance can reach the Philippines, I do know that every ship at our disposal is bringing to the South West Pacific the forces that will ultimately smash the invader and free your country. Ships in that region have been loaded and dispatched to Manila with various supplies for the garrison. Already our forces, with those of our Allies, have inflicted severe losses upon enemy convoys and naval shipping and are definitely slowing his Southward advance. Our four engine bombers are daily reporting to General Wavell from the trans-African route and more recently via the Pacific. Ten squadrons of pursuit and fighter planes have already been made available in that theater and a steady flow of such planes is crossing the Pacific. Our Navy is heavily engaged in escorting to the same region large troop convoys. Every day gained for building up our forces is of incalculable value and it is in the gaining of time that the defenders of Bataan are assisting us so effectively.

I have no words in which to express to you my admiration and gratitude for the complete, demonstration of loyalty, courage and readiness to sacrifice that your people, under your inspired leadership, have displayed. They are upholding the most magnificent traditions of free democracy.

Those portions of your letter to General MacArthur on which you asked publicity are being broadcast to the world from Washington. Your words and your example will rally to renewed effort not only the people of your own country but all those that in every section of the globe are enlisted in the fight for democratic principles and freedom in government.

Message for President Roosevelt on the Situation of the Philippines, February 8, 1942

Headquarters U.S. Army
Forces in the Far East
Fort Mills, P.I.

February 8, 1942

(Sgd.) CARL H. SEALS,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Adjutant General.

PRIORITY

GENERAL
WAR
WASHINGTON DC

GEORGE

C

MARSHALL
DEPARTMENT

The following message has just been received by me from President Quezon for President Roosevelt QUOTE The situation of my country has become so desperate that I feel that positive action is demanded X Militarily it is evident that no help will reach us from the United States in time either to rescue the beleaguered garrison now fighting so gallantly or to prevent the complete overrunning of the entire Philippine archipelago X My people entered the war with the confidence that the United States would bring assistance to us as would make it possible to sustain conflict with some chance of success X All our soldiers in the field were animated by the belief that help would be forthcoming X This hope has not and evidently will not be realized X Our people have suffered death COMMA misery COMMA devastation X After two months of war not the slightest assistance has been forthcoming from the United States X Aid and succor have been dispatched to other warring nations such as England COMMA Ireland COMMA Australia COMMA the NEI and perhaps others COMMA but only has nothing come here COMMA but apparently no effort has been made to bring anything here X The American fleet and the British fleet COMMA the two most powerful navies in the world COMMA have apparently adopted an attitude which precludes any effort to reach these islands with assistance X As a result COMMA while enjoying security itself COMMA the United States has in effect condemned the sixteen millions of Filipino to practical destruction in order to effect a certain delay X You have promised redemption COMMA but what we need is immediate assistance and protection X We are concerned with what is to transpire during the next few months and years as well as with our ultimate destiny X There is not the slightest doubt in our minds that victory will rest with the United States COMMA but the question before us now is colon shall we further sacrifice our country and our people in a hopeless fight query I voice the unanimous opinion of my war cabinet and I am sure the unanimous opinion of all Filipinos that under circumstances we should take steps to preserves the Philippines and the Filipino from further destruction X Thanks to wise generalship of two thirds of my country is as yet untouched X We do not propose to do this by a betrayal of the United States X It appears to us that our mission is only to fight as a sacrifice force here as long as possible in order to help the defense of the Dutch and the British in this area of the world X But you do not need to sacrifice the people of the Philippines to win this war X Members of your government have repeatedly said that action against Hitler would determine the outcome of the entire war X I feel at this moment our military resistance here can no longer hold the enemy when he sees fit to launch a serious attack X I feel I that the elements of the situation here can be composed into a solution that will not only reduce the delaying effect of our resistance here but which will save my country from further devastation as the battle ground of two great powers X I deem it my DUTY TO PROPOSE my solution X The government of the United States under the McDuffie Tydings Law is committed to grant independence to the Philippines in nineteen forty six COMMA and the same law authorized the President to open negotiations for the neutralization of the Philippines X On the other hand COMMA the Japanese Government has publicly announced its willingness to grant the Philippines her independence X In view of the forgo COMMA I propose the following colon that the United States immediately grant the Philippines complete and absolute independence semicolon that the Philippines be at once neutralized semicolon that all occupying troops COMMA both American and Japanese coma be withdrawn by mutual agreement with the Philippine government within a reasonable length of time semicolon that neither country maintain bases in the Philippines semicolon that the Philippine army be immediately disbanded COMMA the only armed forces being maintained here to be a

constabulary of modest size semicolon that immediately upon, granting independence the trade relations of the Philippines with foreign countries be a matter to be determined entirely by the Philippines and the foreign countries concerned semicolon that American and Japanese civilians whose desire be withdrawn with their respective troops under mutual and proper safeguards X It is my proposal to make this suggestion publicly to you and to the Japanese authorities without delay and upon acceptance in general principle by those two countries that an immediate armistice be entered into here pending the withdrawal of their respective garrison Signed Manuel L Quezon unquote PARA I took the liberty of presenting this message to High Commissioner Sayre for a general expression of his views X He states as follows quote if the premise of President Quezon is correct that American help cannot or will not arrive here in time to be availing i believe his proposal for immediate independence and neutralization of Philippines is the sound course to follow unquote PARA my estimate of the military situation here is as follows colon the troops have sustained practically fifty percent casualties from their original strength X Divisions are reduced to the size of regiments COMMA regiments to battalions COMMA battalions to companies X Some units have entirely disappeared X The men have been in constant action and are badly battle worn X They are desperately in need of rest and refitting X Their spirit is good but they are capable now of nothing but fighting in place on a fixed position X All our supplies are scant and the command has been on half rations for the past month X It is possible for the time being that the present enemy force might temporarily be held COMMA but any addition to his present strength will insure the destruction of our mobile force X We have pulled through a number menacing situations but there is no denying the fact that we are near done X Corregidor its is extremely vulnerable X This type of fortress COMMA built prior to the days of air power COMMA when isolated is impossible of prolonged defense X Any heavy air bombardment or the location of siege guns on Bataan or even on the Cavite side would definitely limit the life of the fortress X My water supply is extremely vulnerable and may go at any time X Every other vital installation can be rapidly taken out X Since I have no air or sea protection you must be prepared at any time to figure on the complete destruction of this command X You must determine whether the mission of delay would be better furthered by the temporizing plan of Quezon or by my continued battle effort X the temper of the Filipinos is one of almost violent resentment against the United States X Every one of them expected help and when it has not been forthcoming they believe they hays been betrayed in favor of others X It must be remembered they are hostile to Great Britain on account of the latters colonial policy X In spite of my great prestige with them COMMA I have had the utmost difficulty during the last ten days in keeping them in line X If help does not arrive short nothing COMMA in my opinion coma can prevent their utter collapse and their complete absorption by the enemy X The Japanese made a powerful impression upon Philippine public imagination in promising independence X So far as the military angle is concerned the problem presents itself as to whether the plan of President Quezon might offer the best possible solutions of what is about to be a disastrous debacle X It would not effect the ultimate situation in the Philippines for that would be determined by the results in other theatres the Japanese government rejects President Quezons proposition it would psychologically strengthen our hold because of their prime ministers in public statement offering independence X If it accepts it COMMA we lose no military advantage because we would still secure at least equal delay X Please instruct me END

MACARTHUR

Regraded
Order
Per 91004

Sec.

Army

By

Unclassified
TAG

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Telegram of President Roosevelt to President Quezon, February 9, 1942

WASHINGTON, February 9, 1942

I have just received your message sent through General Mac-Arthur. From my message to you of January 30, 1942 you must realize that I am not lacking in understanding of or sympathy with the situation of yourself and the Commonwealth government today. The immediate crisis certainly seems desperate but such crises and their treatment must be judged by a more accurate measure than the anxieties and sufferings of the present, however acute. For over forty years the American government has been carrying out to the people of the Philippines a pledge to help them successfully, however long it might take, in their aspirations to become a self-governing and independent people with the individual freedom and economic strength which that lofty aim makes requisite. You yourself have participated in and are familiar with the many carefully planned steps by which that pledge of self-government has been carried out and also the steps by which the economic independence of the Islands is to be made effective. May I remind you now that in the loftiness of its aim and the fidelity with which it has been executed, this program of the United States towards another people has been unique in the history of the family of nations. In the McDuffie—Tydings Act of 1934, to which you refer, the Congress of the United States finally fixed the year 1946 as the date in which it was hoped that the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands established by that Act should finally reach the goal of its hopes for political and economic independence.

By a malign conspiracy of a few depraved but powerful nations this hope is now being frustrated and delayed. An organized attack upon individual freedom and governmental independence throughout the entire world, beginning in Europe, has now spread and been carried to the southwestern Pacific by Japan. The basic principles upon which have guided the US in its conduct towards the Philippines have been violated in the rape of Poland, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Albania, Yugoslavia, Manchukuo, China, IndoChina, Thailand and finally the Philippines. You refer in your telegram to the announcement by the Prime Minister of Japan of Japan's willingness to grant to the Philippines her independence. I only have to refer you to the present condition of Korea, Manchukuo, North China, Indo-China, and all other countries which have fallen under the sway of the Japanese government, to point out the hollow duplicity of such an announcement.

The United States today is engaged with all its resources and in company with the governments of 26 other nations in an effort to defeat the aggression of Japan and its Axis partners. This effort will never be abandoned until the complete and thorough overthrow of the entire Axis system and the governments which maintain it. We are engaged now in laying the foundations in the southwest Pacific of a development in air, naval, and military power which shall become sufficient to meet and overthrow the widely extended and arrogant attempts of the Japanese.

By the terms of our pledge to the Philippines implicit in our 40 years of conduct towards your people and expressly recognized in the terms of the McDuffie—Tydings Act, we have undertaken to protect you to the uttermost of our power until the time of your ultimate independence had arrived. Our soldiers in the Philippines are now engaged in fulfilling that purpose. The honor of the United States is pledged to its fulfillment. We propose that it be carried out regardless of its cost. Those Americans who are fighting now will continue to fight until the bitter end. So long as the flag of the United States flies on Filipino soil as a pledge of our duty to your people, it will be defended by our own men to the death. Whatever happens to the present American garrison we shall not relax our efforts until the forces which we are now marshaling outside the Philippine Islands return to the Philippines and drive the last remnant of the invaders from your soil.

Letter for President Roosevelt on the War in the Western Pacific, February 10, 1942

Headquarters U.S. Army
Forces in the Far East
Fort Mills, P. I.

February 10, 1942

(Sgd.) CARL H. SEALS,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
Adjutant General.

URGENT IMMEDIATE

GENERAL
WAR DEPARTMENT

GEORGE

C.

MARSHALL

The following communication is from President Quezon to President Roosevelt QUOTE The following is the letter I propose to address to you and to the Emperor of Japan if my regent proposal meets with your approval COLON two great nations are now at war in the Western Pacific X The Commonwealth of the Philippines is still the possession of one of those nations COMMA although through legislative process it was about to attain complete independence which would have insured its neutrality in any conflict X The Philippines has therefore become a battleground between the warring powers and is being visited with death COMMA famine and destruction despite the fact that occupation of the country will not influence in any way the final outcome of the war nor have a bearing upon the conflicting principles over which the war is being waged PARA under the Tydings McDuffie Law the United States has promised to recognize the independence of the Philippines in the nineteen forty six and the same law gave authority to the President of the United States to begin parleys for the neutralization of the Philippines X On the other hand COMMA the Premier of the Imperial Government of Japan COMMA addressing the diet COMMA stated that the Imperial Government of Japan was ready to offer the Filipino people independence with honor X On the strength of these commitments and impelled by a sincere desire to put an end to the sufferings and sacrifices of our people COMMA and to safeguard their liberty and welfare COMMA I propose the following program of action COLON that the Government of the United States and the Imperial Government of Japan recognize the independence of the Philippines SEMICOLON that immediate neutralization of the Philippines be effected SEMICOLON that within a reasonable period of time both armies COMMA America and Japanese COMMA be withdrawn COMMA previous arrangements having been negotiated with the Philippine government SEMICOLON that neither nation maintain bases in the Philippines SEMICOLON that the Philippine army be at once demobilized COMMA the remaining force to be a constabulary of moderate size SEMICOLON that at once upon the granting of freedom that trade agreements with other countries become sole a matter to be settled by the Philippines and the nation concerned SEMICOLON that American and Japanese noncombatants who so desire be evacuated with their own armies under reciprocal and appropriate stipulations PARA it is my earnest hope that COMMA moved by the highest considerations of justice and humanity COMMA the two great powers which now exercise control over the Philippines will give their approval in general principle to my proposal X If this is done I further COMMA in order to accomplish the details thereof COMMA that an armistice be declared in the Philippines and that I proceed to Manila at once for necessary consultations with the two governments concerned signed Manuel L Quezon unquote END

MACARTHUR

Regraded
Order
Per 91004

Sec.

Army

By

Unclassified
TAG

Source: Quezon Family Collections

Telegram of President Roosevelt to President Quezon, February 11, 1942

WASHINGTON, February 11, 1942

Your message of February tenth evidently crossed mine to you of February ninth. Under our constitutional authority the President of the United States is not empowered to cede or alienate any territory to another nation. Furthermore, the United States has just bound itself in agreement with twenty-five other nations to united action in dealing with the Axis Powers and has specifically engaged itself not to enter into any negotiations for a separates peace. You have no authority to communicate with the Japanese Government without the express permission of the United States Government. I will make no further comments regarding your last message dated February tenth pending your acknowledgement of mine to you of February ninth through General MacArthur.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Official Radio Script of President Quezon's proposal

OFFICIAL RADIO

Headquarters U. S. Army
Forces in the Far East,
For Mills, P. I.,

February 12, 1942.

CARL H. SEALS,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
Adjutant General.

SECRET PRIORITY

GENERAL
WAR DEPARTMENT

GEORGE

C.

MARSHAL

President Quezon suggested proposal was entirely contingent upon prior approval by President Roosevelt X
Replying your one zero three one X He has no intention whatsoever so far as I know to do anything which does not
meet with President Roosevelt's complete acquiescence X I will however take every possible precaution that nothing
of this nature goes out X President Quezon has several times declined to accept a trip by submarine X His physical
condition is such that his medical advisers do not believe he could survive it END

MACARTHUR

DECLASSIFIED
20 AUG. 75

PER

JCS

LTR

OE

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1942). [Official radio script on President Manuel L. Quezon's proposal]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Letter of Field Marshal MacArthur to President Quezon, March 16, 1942

HEADQUARTERS U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

March 16, 1942

Mr Dear Mr. President:

As I radioed you yesterday, an entirely new situation and prospect has developed. The United States is moving its forces into the southern Pacific area in what is destined to be a great offensive against Japan. The troops are being concentrated in Australia which will be used as the base for the offensive drive to the Philippines. President Roosevelt has designated me to command this offensive and has directed me to proceed to Australia for that purpose. He believes this is the best way to insure the success of the movement. I was naturally loath to leave Corregidor but the Washington authorities insisted, implying that if I did not personally assume the command the effort could not be made. As a matter of fact, I had no choice in the matter, being peremptorily ordered by President Roosevelt himself. I understand the forces are rapidly being accumulated and hope that the drive can be undertaken before the Bataan-Corregidor situation reaches a climax. I left there several days ago and by the time you receive this note, will have flown to Australia. I want you and your family to join me there. We have been completely identified together for many years, and you have been at my headquarters since the beginning of the war. It is the natural and proper thing for you to do to rejoin me at my headquarters in Australia in the great drive for victory in the Philippines. The Filipinos and the world at large would acclaim this in every way, and it would enthuse and inspire them. This is an entirely different proposition from the one we previously discussed which involved your leaving the country merely for the sake of security. The plan would be to have you fly from Del Monte in three of our big B-17 bombers. The trip would take only nine hours and be done at night, and it does not represent a serious hazard. You could do it with no jeopardy whatsoever to your health. Flying at night would be at no higher altitude than eight or nine thousand feet, and the flight surgeons assure me that you would have no physical difficulty. General Sharp, who is in command here, will aid and assist you in every way. You will find him entirely sympathetic and cooperative. Inform him when you are ready as it will take me a little time to set the plan up.

I am retaining full command here in the Philippines and have left part of my staff at Corregidor, pending my return there. Roxas remains there. All communications for me go there just as before. I am sending this note by Soriano, who has read its contents.

We all join in expressions of love and devotion.

Affectionately,

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

His Excellency,

The President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines

Telegram of General Wainwright to President Quezon, March 22, 1942

7 AJ3 V 20X GR 165 240P MAR 22/42 GL/JP

SHARP

TWENTY TWO S DASH 119 FOR DON PAREN BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES STOP I HAVE ACCEPTED THIS ASSIGNMENT HOPING THAT I SHALL MERIT THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THAT I WILL RECEIVE THE LOYALTY AND UNESTIMATED COOPERATION OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WHICH UNDER YOUR PATRIOTIC LEADERSHIP WERE ACCORDED TO GENERAL MACARTHUR PAREN STOP INSPIRED BY THE NOBLE CAUSE FOR WHICH WE ARE FIGHTING AND PARTICULARLY FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE I SHALL DO MY DUTY UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

WAINWRIGHT

415P MAR 22/42

Telegram of President Quezon to General Wainwright

**Telegram
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
To General Wainwright**

[Released on March 23, 1942]

AS/ons-

March 23,

GEN WAINWRIGHT FORT MILLS PHILIPPINES

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM AND HASTEN TO EXTEND TO YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS UPON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS THE MOST WORTHY SUCCESSOR OF GENERAL MACARTHUR STOP YOU HAVE MY ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE AND I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE THE LOYAL AND UNSTINTED COOPERATION OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE IN THE SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT THAT WE GAVE IT TO GENERAL MACARTHUR STOP I WISH YOU COMPLETE SUCCESS AND I PRAY GOD MAY PROTECT YOU AND YOUR COMMAND STOP AFFECTIONATE REGARDS

DON

SEND IN CODE

President Quezon's Proclamation upon arriving in Australia, March 28, 1942

HEADQUARTERS

U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

IN THE CLEAR PRIORITY

NR 50

WAINWRIGHT

FORT MILLS

Publicize the following proclamation of President Quezon:

“To the Filipino People and the Philippine Army: At the request of General MacArthur, I have left the Philippines and joined him at his headquarters in Australia. On previous occasions, suggestions have been made to me that I leave the Philippines, but I have refused to do it, determined to carry on with the affairs of Government in Philippine territory.

“Upon the appointment of General MacArthur to command the Allied Forces in this part of the world, he invited me to join him upon the ground that we could continue to cooperate as we have done in the past better if we were together than if we were separated and with the difficulties in the means of communications. Having no other objective in mind than to free the Philippines, I did not hesitate to accept the suggestion of General MacArthur despite the hazards that the trip involved. And so I am here where I expect to be able to be of assistance in the reconquest of every foot of territory of my beloved country. It is my hope that the results of the appointment of General MacArthur to the High Command and my having followed his advice to join with him will soon be felt in the Philippines.

“I call upon every Filipino to keep his courage and fortitude, and to have faith in the ultimate victory of our cause.

“(Signed) MANUEL L. QUEZON”

MACARTHUR

Statement: General MacArthur on the fall of Corregidor, May 7, 1942

**Statement of General MacArthur:
On the fall of Corregidor**

[Released on May 7, 1942]

“Corregidor needs no comment from me. It has sounded its own story at the mouth of its guns. It has scrolled its own epitaph on enemy tablets. But through the bloody haze of its last reverberating shot, I shall always seem to see a vision of grim, gaunt, ghastly men, still unafraid.”

Source: **MacArthur Archives**

Talk by President Quezon on the Shortwave to the Philippine Islands, May 8, 1942

**Talk
of
His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On the Shortwave to the Philippine Islands**

[Released on May 8, 1942]

I speak to my fellow countrymen in the Philippines.

I speak to you, my people, as your servant—the one elected by you to work for you in the capacity of Chief Executive.

And it is as your servant—your chosen representative—that I am on my way to confer with the President of the United States. President Roosevelt is determined that the armed forces of the United States shall return in triumph to the Philippines—shall drive out the Japanese oppressor—shall fulfill the United States pledge of independence for the Philippines. I shall discuss with Mr. Roosevelt the means by which this goal can most speedily be accomplished. I, and your other representatives who have accompanied me, shall work every minute of every hour, every hour of every day, for the liberation of you, my people.

I have recently departed from the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur in Australia. General MacArthur, like President Roosevelt and like myself, is pledged to the proposition that the Japanese must and shall be driven out of the Philippines. General MacArthur will not fail. He will keep his promise to return. Already, we see great military and naval strengthening of the United Nations forces in the Pacific war theater. We see shattering blows being struck at the Japanese war forces. These blows are but the beginning.

I know that you in our homeland are now saddened. Saddened by the fact that our beautiful Capital, Manila, is in Japanese hands. Saddened that our heroic Filipino and American soldiers were, after perhaps the most gallant military stand in history, overcome by exhaustion and sheer weight of numbers. Saddened that the glorious resistance on Corregidor has inevitably ended.

I share your sadness—more deeply, perhaps, than you can realize.

But our emotion of grief is transcended by determination and confidence. I know that you will keep that determination burning in your breasts. It is an undying determination that, though the Japanese invader may for a brief moment conquer—to some extent—your lands and your bodies, your minds and your souls remain unconquered, unbroken. Your minds and souls remain free. And behind this spirit, there lives in all of us a confidence that the day of liberation is surely coming. The great and free peoples of the United Nations will not permit you to remain in bondage. Led by their noble statesmen and generals, they will rescue the Philippines. They will break the Japanese yoke which now oppresses you.

Stand firm. Hold to your faith. The forces of freedom are on the march. The day approaches when you shall joyously welcome them to our shores.

Today, shortly after my arrival in San Francisco, I talked with about 20 newspapermen, representing the newspapers of San Francisco and the great American press services which provide news to all the newspapers of the United States. From their questions and from their remarks it was very evident that these representative Americans have the keenest and most undying interest and concern in the Philippines and in the Filipino people. It was inspiring to me to sense the great and unconquerable resolve of America's 130 million people—their resolve that the Philippines shall be redeemed.

I made this statement to the American press. This is what I said:

“I repeat now a statement which I have made many times before—that the Philippine Commonwealth will stand by the United States to the end.”

Let me add to this assertion now the conviction that the United States, as its great and distinguished President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has pledged, will not only stand beside us in our terrible plight of ordeal, but will dedicate its total might to the redemption of our homeland and to the dawn of a new day of freedom, dignity, and strength.

The enemy has listed me as dead. Hearing my voice, as you do at this moment, is, of course, proof sufficient to you that I am very much alive, and that this was merely one more of the flagrant falsehoods of our common foe. Not only that. I am feeling in much better health. I am here to work for you in concert with the leaders of our most cherished sister republic—the United States of America. We shall work together until the final day of liberation for all our peoples. God grant that this day shall dawn soon.

Source: **MacArthur Archives**

Letter of Auditor General Hernandez to Finance Secretary Soriano, May 21, 1942

Commonwealth of the Philippines
General Auditing Office
Manila

Jaime Hernandez
Auditor General

1617 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C., May 21, 1942

Hon. Andres Soriano,
Secretary of Finance,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt from you of copies of the following official documents:

1. Counterpart No. 5 of receipt dated March 24, 1942, at Del Monte, Bukidnon, signed by Paul S. Beard, Lt. Col., F.D., U.S.A., from Maj. Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines, for four boxes containing P7,500,000.00. Approved by Pres. Quezon.
2. Certificate dated March 24, 1942, at Del Monte, Bukidnon, signed by Maj. Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines, and approved by Pres. Quezon, authorizing destruction by a Committee of three, government funds deposited for safekeeping with Col. Paul S. Beard, F.D., U.S.A., and Commissioner of Mindanao, Teopisto Guingona.
3. Counterparts Nos. 5 and 6, dated March 26, 1942, at Del Monte, Bukidnon, signed by Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines, Exchange for P2,000,000.00 to Treasurer of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manila, thru the Philippine National Bank.
4. Counterparts No. 7 and 8, dated March 26, 1942, at Del Monte, Bukidnon, signed by Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines, Exchange for P1,000,000.00 to Treasurer of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manila, thru the Philippine National Bank.
5. Counterpart No. 4 of receipt dated March 24, 1942, signed by Maj. Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines, for the amount of P1,100,000.00 from Col. Nieto.
6. Counterpart No. 3 of receipt dated March 24, 1942, signed by Maj. Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines, for the amount of P528,663.00 from Serapio D. Canceran, Special Disbursing Officer, Office of the President.
7. Counterpart No. 2 of receipt dated March 24, 1942, signed by Serapio D. Canceran, Special Disbursing Officer, Office of the President, for P28,662.30, from Maj. Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines.
8. Counterpart No. 2 of receipt dated March 24, 1942, signed by Lt. Col. Manuel Nieto, Disbursing Officer, Office of the President, for P100,000.00, from Maj. Andres Soriano, Treasurer of the Philippines.
9. Memorandum Report of S.G. Miranda, Acting Manager, Philippine National Bank, Cebu, dated at Cebu City on February 28, 1942.

10. Letter of Andres Soriano, Secretary of Finance, to the Manager, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne, dated April 2, 1942, re transfer of \$500,000.00 from the Chase National Bank to the National City Bank of New York.

11. Letter of Andres Soriano, Secretary of Finance, to the Manager, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne, dated April 6, 1942, re transfer of \$400,000.00 from the National City Bank of New York to the Chase National Bank.

12. Letter of Andres Soriano, Secretary of Finance, to the Manager, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne, dated April 16, 1942, re amount of \$15,000.00 to be operated by Maj. Joseph McMicking.

Respectfully

(sgd.) Jaime Hernandez
Auditor General

Letter of Honorable Cordell Hull to President Quezon

**Letter
of
Honorable Cordell Hull
Secretary of State
United States of America
To His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon**

[Delivered in Washington, D. C., June 13, 1942]

His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon,
President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

My dear Mr. President:

I have received your communication of June 10, 1942 stating that the people of the Philippines are wholeheartedly devoted to liberty and fully subscribe to the principles set forth in the Atlantic Charter; that they desire to associate themselves with the nations which are fighting for the preservation of life and liberty against the forces of barbarism that seek world domination; and that accordingly the Commonwealth of the Philippines formally adheres to the Declaration by United Nations of January 1, 1942.

The entire freedom-loving world admires the great courage and valor shown by the people of the Philippines during the past six months as they have gallantly fought to preserve their country from Japanese aggression. On behalf of this Government, as depository for the Declaration by United Nations, I take pleasure in welcoming into this group the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **CORDEL HULL**

Source: **New York Public Library**

Hull, C. (1942). Letter of Honorable Cordell Hull to President Quezon. Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington, 41(1), 18.

Radiogram from Lieutenant Colonel Guillermo Nakar received by General MacArthur, June 30, 1942

JUNE 30, 1942

AGWAR
WASHINGTON

The following paraphrase of radiogram received by me June twenty nine from Lieutenant Colonel Guillermo Nakar is for your information.

“Making use of slender means available to the greatest extent possible my command, the Fourteenth Infantry and attached elements, are continuing to offer resistance in five provinces of North Luzon. Also in Ilocos and Central Plain other detachments under the command of Filipino and American officers who are still free are attacking small units of the enemy whenever possible. Further, one of the provincial governors of Ilocos is in person conducting hostilities against the Japanese. The enemys temporary government is levying a personel tax of 1 ½ peso on every male Filipino and a ½ peso on each woman. The population exhibits a brave and courageous attitude in the face of hostile rule. The people ardently desire to witness your return as a victor. It is desired that foregoing be sent to President Quezon. Additional news will follow at appropriate times. Desire all communications for me be sent to Kran Apoeng Java, my COGNOMEN and residence. Especially desire no repeat no information be given out for publication that might reveal to enemy the origin of this information. Further orders are awaited.”

Request no repeat no publicity be given this communication. Request President Quezon be informed.

MACARTHUR

OFFICIAL:

B. M. FITCH,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Letter of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes to President Quezon, October 15, 1942

**Letter
of
Honorable Harold L. Ickes
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
To President Manuel L. Quezon**

[Sent to Washington, D. C., October 15, 1942]

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

October 15, 1942.

My dear Mr. President:

I have read your letter of October 10 with interest, as well as with sympathetic concern. I would have no interest in riding rough-shod over the representatives here of the brave Filipinos, even if I regarded that I had the power to do so. It was unfortunate that Mr. Fortas had fixed engagements in the West that he could not postpone, and unfortunate, too, that a few days before he left, I had to be in St. Louis and Chicago so that he could not arrange to see you. However, he will be back in Washington, according to his schedule, not later than next Monday and I will then try to see to it that he comes to you for a full conference. I would undertake it myself, but the burden that I have been carrying here during the recent past has been almost intolerable.

In the meantime take care of yourself and be assured that I have the same friendly feeling toward you personally and the same personal desire to work in cooperation with you on the broadest possible basis that I have ever had.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HAROLD L. ICKES
Secretary of the Interior

Hon.
President
Washington, D. C.

Manuel
of

L.
the

Quezon,
Philippines,

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Ickes, H. (1942). [Letter of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes to President Manuel L. Quezon]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Letter of Honorabe Basilio Valdes to Honorable Cordell Hull

**Letter
of
Honorable Basilio J. Valdes
Secretary of National Defense
To Honorable Cordell Hull**

[Sent on November 5, 1942]

The
Cordell
Secretary of State

Honorable
Hull

The
17
New York, N. Y.

De

La

Rama
Battery

Steamship

Co.,

Inc.
Place

Sirs:

Radio Station License No. 2221, authorizing operation of the radio station aboard SS Dona Aniceta (KZSZ) issued at Manila by the Department of Public Works and Communications of the Philippine Commonwealth on January 21, 1941, with the effective date of April 9, 1941 and expiration date April 8, 1942 is hereby extended to April 8, 1943 under the same terms and conditions.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) **BASILIO J. VALDES**
Secretary of National Defense

Source: New York Public Library

Valdes, B. J. (1942). Letter of Honorable Basilio Valdes to Honorable Cordell Hull . *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 19.

Radio Address of His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt on the Seventh Anniversary of the Philippines Commonwealth Government

**Radio Address
of
His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
On the Seventh Anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines**

[Delivered from the White House, November 15, 1942]

Though the alien flag of a treacherous aggressor flies temporarily over the Commonwealth of the Philippines, it is with supreme confidence in ultimate victory that the United Nations commemorate this birthday of its youngest member.

It was just seven years ago that this Commonwealth was established. By that time the United States had maintained sovereignty in the Philippine Islands for more than thirty years. But as I said in 1935 when the present Commonwealth was inaugurated, "The acceptance of sovereignty was but an obligation to serve the people of the Philippines until the day they might find themselves independent, and take their own place among the Nations of the world."

Let me go back to the days when Admiral Dewey won the battle of Manila Bay, and American sovereignty was established over the Islands. To a very large part of the American people, it seemed incongruous and unwise that the United States should continue permanently a colonial status over many millions of human beings who had already shown a desire for independence.

However, the United States and the leaders of the Philippine people soon undertook a long-time process of providing facilities in the Islands for education, health, commerce, and transportation, with the definite thought that the day would come when the people would be able to stand on their own feet. And at the same time, we granted them a greater and greater degree of local self-government.

By the year 1934 sympathetic conferences between Philippine and American leaders reached the conclusion that the time for complete independence could be definitely set, to follow a ten-year period of complete local autonomy under a Commonwealth form of government with its own Constitution.

This status was duly set up in 1935 under the Presidency of my old friend, Manuel Quezon. It succeeded so well that by December 7, 1941, we were jointly at work preparing for the consummation of complete independence in 1946. Both Nations and peoples had kept faith with each other during all these years. Confidence in each other's good faith was firmly established and it was cemented into place during the bitter months of ordeal which followed the treachery of Japan,

The brave peoples of the Philippines—their Army and their civilians—stood shoulder to shoulder with the Americans in their fight against overwhelming odds, resolute to shed their blood in defense of their liberty. Richly they deserved that liberty!

I like to think that the history of the Philippine Islands in the last 44 years provides in a very real sense a pattern for the future of other small Nations and peoples of the world. It is a pattern of what men of good will look forward to in the future—a pattern of a global civilization which recognizes no limitations of religion, or of creed, or of race.

But we must remember that such a pattern is based on two important factors. The first is that there be a period of preparation, through the dissemination of education, and the recognition and fulfillment of physical and social and economic needs. The second is that there be a period of training for ultimate independent sovereignty, through the

practice of more and more self-government, beginning with local government and passing on through the various steps to complete statehood.

Even we in the United States did not arrive at full national independence until we had gone through the preliminary stages. The town meetings in the New England colonies, and the similar local organizations in other colonies, gradually led to county government and then to State government. That whole process of political training and development preceded the final formation of our permanent Federal Government in 1789.

Such training for independence is essential to the stability of independence in almost every part of the world. Some peoples need more intensive training and longer years; others require far less training and a shorter period of time.

The recent history of the Philippines has been one of national cooperation and adjustment and development. We are sure now, if ever we doubted, that our Government in the United States chose the right and the honorable course.

The pattern which was followed there is essentially a part and parcel of the philosophy and the ideals of the United Nations. The doctrine which controls the ambitions and directs the ruthlessness of our enemies—that there is one master folk destined to rule all other peoples—is a doctrine now on its way to destruction for all time to come.

The United States and the Philippines are already engaged in examining the practical economic problems of the future when President Quezon and his Government are reestablished in the Capital of Manila. He and I, in conference last week, have agreed to set up a Joint Commission of our two countries, to study the economic situation which will face the Nation which is soon to be, and to work out means of preserving its stability, and above all its security.

This typifies the highest form of good faith, which exists wholeheartedly between our two Governments.

It does more than that. It is a realistic symbol of our grim determination and of our supreme confidence that we shall drive the Japanese Army out of the Philippines to the last man.

President Quezon—on this auspicious anniversary—I salute, through you, the people of the Philippine Islands. I salute their courage. I salute their independence.

—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Citation: Franklin D. Roosevelt: “Radio Address on the Seventh Anniversary of the Philippines Commonwealth Government,” November 15, 1942. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*.

Source: **The American Presidency Project**

Letter of Honorable Cordell Hull to President Quezon

**Letter
of
Honorable Cordell Hull
Secretary of State
United States of America
To His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon**

[Sent on January 12, 1943]

My dear Mr. President:

This Government and certain others of the United Nations have made public the text of a declaration dealing with forced transfers of property in the territories which have come under the occupation or control of the enemy. I enclose herewith for your information the text of this declaration.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) **CORDEL HULL**

Enclosure:
Declaration.

His
MANUEL
President
of
Shoreham
Washington, D. C.

of
the

the
Philippine

Excellency
QUEZON,
Commonwealth
Islands,
Hotel,

“The Union of South Africa, the United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, the Czechoslovak Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Greece, India, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia and the French National Committee:

“Hereby issue a formal warning to all concerned, and in particular to persons in neutral countries, that they intend to do their utmost to defeat the methods of dispossession practiced by the governments with which they are at war against the countries and peoples who have been so wantonly assaulted and despoiled.

“Accordingly the governments making this declaration and the French National Committee reserve all their rights to declare invalid any transfers of, or dealings with, property, rights and interests of any description whatsoever which are, or have been, situated in the territories which have come under the occupation or control, direct or indirect, of the governments with which they are at war or which belong or have belonged, to persons, including juridical persons, resident in such territories. This warning applies whether such transfers or dealings have taken the form of open looting or plunder, or of transactions apparently legal in form, even when they purport to be voluntarily effected.

“The governments making this declaration and the French National Committee solemnly record their solidarity in this matter.”

Source: New York Public Library

Hull, C. (1943). Letter of Honorable Cordell Hull to President Quezon. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington*, 41(1), 18-19.

Memorandum of President Quezon on sending Captain Villamor to the United States, February 11, 1943

To: CINC SWPA (For MacArthur)
From: Washington (Thru WDGBI)
Nr: 1056 February 11, 1943.

I wish to reiterate my former request that you send Captain Villamor to the United States. In addition to the training that he would get he should be very useful as many other American officers who have distinguished themselves in Bataan and Corregidor have been useful in telling the American People about that epic battle. Villamor's name has been given wide publicity in the United States through your own commendation of his services but we have not had in the United States one single officer who has actually been mentioned in your dispatches for outstanding conduct and heroism. Villamor would fill this gap. Besides I am now preparing a big rally on April 9, the anniversary of the fall of Bataan and the Federal Government is taking charge of the preparations and the program to make it as big and successful a rally as possible. Villamor should be here on that occasion. Affectionately.

Quezon.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OE
20 AUG. 75

Source: Quezon Family Collections

Message of General MacArthur to President Quezon regarding Villamor as the Head of a Special Intelligence Unit, February 12, 1943

February 12, 1943.

CS:ppr

AGWAR
WASHINGTON

Please deliver the following ultra secret message to President Quezon (C 422) QUOTE Villamor has for some time been in the Philippines having volunteered as the Head of a Special Intelligence Unit from this headquarters STOP Please keep this information absolutely secret as any suspicion of his mission would unduly endanger his safety STOP Everyone joins in affectionate greetings and best wishes for rally on April ninth UNQUOTE

MACARTHUR

OFFICIAL:

R. K. SUTHERLAND,
Major General, U.S.A.,
Chief of Staff.

Regraded
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Unclassified

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Memorandum of President Quezon for Commissioner Elizalde and Dr. Rotor, June 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM
COMMISSIONER
AND DR. ROTOR

FOR
ELIZALDE

Until my health is better and the Vice President can act for me, the Resident Commissioner will take charge of the Government of the Commonwealth, including the Office of Special Services.

Dr. Rotor, as Secretary to the President, shall be informed and be heard by Commissioner Elizalde on matters in which he desires to be heard.

The Auditor General, of course, has his proper functions, and his advice on all public questions is valuable.

As soon as the Vice President is well, he will act for me on all matters pertaining to my office, that is to say, he will act as Acting President.

(SGD) MANUEL L. QUEZON

Washington,
June 9, 1943

D.

C.

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Memorandum of President Manuel L. Quezon for Commissioner Elizalde and Dr. Rotor]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Message-Transmittal of General MacArthur to President Quezon on war updates, June 14, 1943

JUNE 14, 1943

CS RKS:HBC

AGWAR
WASHINGTON

Deeply grieved at your illness parem for Quezon PAREN but have invincible faith that a Merciful Providence will preserve you for the great work of reconstruction that lies ahead in the Philippines () There is little chance of recovering Roxas STOP Apparently he is confined in his own home in Manila stop if opportunity presents itself we will assuredly evacuate him STOP We are watching Peralta closely and are trying to guide him along conservative lines STOP He shows youth and inexperience but has certain qualities which we are trying to fully utilize STOP

MACARTHUR

OFFICIAL:

B. M. FITCH,
Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

Regraded
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Unclassified

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Instruction to Bohol Emergency Currency Board and Appointment of Miguel Salvane as Judge of Capiz of the Court of First Instance, June 28, 1943

28 JUN 1943

TO:
FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

GENERAL

MACARTHUR

5189 28 June 43

Happy to learn arrival Cruz and his early departure. Please send me Parsons' news when he arrives. I hereby instruct Bohol Emergency Currency Board (Prov) and Dalmacio Ramos, Prov Fiscal, Jose Borromjo and Acting Prov Treasurer Doroteo Toledo to improve printing, correct faulty wording and hereby authorize them to print another P200,000.

I hereby appoint Miguel Salvane as Judge of Capiz of Court of First Instance.

Regraded
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Unclassified

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Address of His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt to the People of the Philippines on Post-War Independence, August 12, 1943

Address of His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt to the People of the Philippines on Post-War Independence, August 12, 1943

To the people of the Philippines:

On December 28, 1941, three weeks after the armies of the Japanese launched their attack on Philippine soil, I sent a proclamation to you, the gallant people of the Philippines. I said then:

“I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources, in men and in material, of the United States stand behind that pledge.”

We shall keep this promise, just as we have kept every promise which America has made to the Filipino people.

The story of the fighting on Bataan and Corregidor—and, indeed, everywhere in the Philippines will be remembered so long as men continue to respect bravery, and devotion, and determination. When the Filipino people resisted the Japanese invaders with their very lives, they gave final proof that here was a Nation fit to be respected as the equal to any on earth, not in size or wealth, but in the stout heart and national dignity which are the true measures of a people.

That is why the United States, in practice, regards your lawful Government as having the same status as the Governments of other independent Nations. That is why I have looked upon President Quezon and Vice President Osmeña, not only as old friends, but also as trusted collaborators in our united task of destroying our common enemies in the East as well as in the West.

The Philippine Government is a signatory of the Declaration by the United Nations, along with 31 other Nations. President Quezon and Vice President Osmeña attend the meetings of the Pacific War Council, where the war in the Pacific is charted and planned. Your Government has participated fully and equally in the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, and a Philippine representative is a member of the Interim Commission created by that Conference. And, of course, the Philippine Government will have its rightful place in the conferences which will follow the defeat of Japan.

These are the attributes of complete and respected nationhood for the Philippines, not a promise but a fact.

As President Quezon himself has told you, “The only thing lacking is the formal establishment of the Philippine Republic.” These words of your President were uttered to you with my prior knowledge and approval. I now repeat them to you myself. I give the Filipino people my word that the Republic of the Philippines will be established the moment the power of our Japanese enemies is destroyed. The Congress of the United States has acted to set up the independence of the Philippines. The time will come quickly when that goes into full effect. You will soon be redeemed from the Japanese yoke and you will be assisted in the full repair of the ravages caused by the war.

We shall fight with ever-increasing strength and vigor until that end is achieved. Already Japan is tasting defeat in the islands of the Southwest Pacific. But that is only the beginning.

I call upon you, the heroic people of the Philippines to stand firm in your faith to stand firm against the false promises of the Japanese, just as your fighting men and our fighting men stood firm together against their barbaric attacks.

The great day of your liberation will come, as surely as there is a God in Heaven.

The United States and the Philippines have learned the principles of honest cooperation, of mutual respect, in peace and in war.

For those principles we have fought—and by those principles we shall live.

Citation: Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Address to the People of the Philippines on Post-War Independence," August 12, 1943. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*.

Source: **The American Presidency Project**

Memorandum to His Excellency from Dr. Rotor, September 1, 1943

Memorandum to His Excellency

From Dr. Rotor

Pursuant to your instructions, I am submitting to you herewith the changes in assignment and distribution of work that I had effected in the Office of Special Service since I took charge on September 1, 1943 in accordance with your telegram to Mr. Bernstein on August 23, 1943.

With the departure of Dr. Cherin and Mr. Saunders and the resignation of Mr. Bernstein as Director, it was necessary for the uninterrupted functioning of the office that some qualified members of the staff be given additional duties and responsibilities. I therefore designated Mr. Solomon Arnaldo as Assistant Director, vice Dr. Cherin, who was Associate Director. The work that Mr. Saunders was doing I divided between Mr. James Wingo and Miss Gladys Beauchamp, whom I designated Public Relations Officer and Assistant Public Relations Officer respectively. Miss Beauchamp, who was formerly Mr. Bernstein's secretary, had another offer from a national weekly magazine, but she preferred to work with us. Since, as Mr. Bernstein's secretary, she was familiar with all of the contacts that he made, I considered her decision to remain with us most fortunate. With the promotion of Mr. Arnaldo, Miss Remedios Vergara, our librarian, now has additional duties as reference and research worker. Although I had made no commitments in her case, as I have with the first three, I think that in fairness to her, she should also receive a small increase in her salary.

I had discussed these changes with the Auditor before I made any commitments. His endorsement is attached herewith. Because of the fact that these members of the staff had been fulfilling their new duties since September 1, I request that their new appointments begin on that date, I wish to call your attention in particular to Miss Beauchamp, who is the only American secretary who decided to remain with us after Messrs. Bernstein, Cherin and Saunders resigned. In addition, inasmuch as I had made these commitments, I should like to fulfill them before I turn over the office to Colonel Romulo.

—

I don't think that as a matter of policy Chief of an office should make commitments about salaries before they have been appointed by the President.

All the recommendations should be submitted to the Cabinet and then with the Cabinet's recommendation to use.

M. L. Q.

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Rotor, A. (1943). [Memorandum to President Quezon from Arturo Rotor]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University.

Highlights in the History of Philippine-American Relations, September 27, 1943

1617
Washington 6, D. C.

Massachusetts

Ave.,

N.W.

Office of Special Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE PHILIPPINES

Highlights in the History of Philippine-American Relations

Senator Millard E. Tydings, in presenting his resolution to grant immediate independence to the Philippines, last Friday took a step that was both historic and logical. Co-author of the Law that grants independence to the Philippines in 1946, he, as expected, was among the first to recognize the fact, that recent development have made it necessary to advance that date.

A resume of important dates in Philippine-American history reads like the blueprint of a program for the political, social, and economic development of the Philippines. It is a program founded on the mutual faith and respect which the two people had for each other and which they carried out this the closest cooperation. In studying these dates, one is struck by their periodicity. Important measures were passed within definite time limits, as if a schedule were being followed. Each measure was more important than the preceding, each measure granted an ever increasing amount of self-government and carried the nation farther towards a fixed goal-complete independence.

JANUARY 20, 1899. – President William McKinley issued his instructions to the First Philippine Commission, composed of Jacob Gould Schurnan (President of Cornell University), president of the Commission, Admiral George Dewey, Major General Eiwel S. Otis, Charles Denby, and Dean C. Worcester. The President's letter of instruction said in part:

The commissioners will endeavor, without interference with the military authors of the United States now in control of the Philippines, to ascertain what amelioration in the condition or the inhabitants and what improvements in public order may be practicable, and for this purpose they will study attentively the existing social and political state of the various populations, particularly as regards the forms of local government, the administration of justice, the collection of customs and other taxes, the means of transportation, and the need of public improvements. (Dean C. Worcester, The Philippines, Past and Present, needed by Joseph R. Hayden, New York, 1930, pp. 787-788)

MARCH 16, 1900. – The Second Philippine Commission was appointed, with William H. Taft as President and Dean C. Worcester, Luke E. Wright, Henry C. Ide, and Bernard Moses, all civilian, and members. In contrast to the First Philippine Commission, which was an advisory body, the new Commission was a civil agency with ample powers.

APRIL 7, 1900. – The President issued interactions to the Second Philippine Commission which are often referred to as "The Magna Charta of the Philippines." In these instructions, President McKinley declared:

In all the forms of government and administrative provisions which they are authorized to prescribe, the commission should bear in mind that the government which they are establishing is designed not for our satisfaction, or for the expression of our theoretical views, but for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the people of the Philippine Islands, and the measures adopted should be made to conform to their customs, their habits, and even their

prejudices, to the fullest extent consistent with the accomplishment of the indispensable requisites of just and effective government.

...there are certain great principles of government which have been made the basis of our governmental system which we deem essential to the rule of law and the maintenance of individual freedom, and of which they have, unfortunately, been denied the experience possessed by us; that there are also certain practical rules of government which we have found to be essential to the preservation of these great principles of liberty and law, and that these principles and these rules of government must be established and maintained in their islands for the sake of their liberty and happiness....

It is evident that the most enlightened thought of the Philippine Islands fully appreciates the importance of these principles and rules, and they will inevitably within a short time command universal assent. (Reports of the Philippine Commission, the Civil Governor, and the Heads of the Executive Departments of the Civil Government of the Philippine Islands (1900-1903), Washington, 1904, pp.8-9.)

In the words of William H. Taft, President of the Second Philippine Commission, the policy expressed by these Instructions is that of "The Philippines for the Filipinos." (David P. Barrows, History of the Philippines, rev. ed., 1926, p.283)

Earlier, President McKinley himself had declared: "The Philippines are ours not to exploit but to develop, to civilize, to educate, to train in the science of self-government." (House Document No. 511, 67th Congress, 4th Session, 13. See W. Cameron Forbes, The Philippine Islands, New York, 1928, v. 2, pp. 342-343)

MARCH 2, 1901. – The Spooner Amendment to Act of March 2, 1901, was approved. This amendment provided that "all military, civil, and judicial powers necessary to govern the Philippine Islands... shall, unless otherwise provided by Congress, be vested in such person and persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct, for the establishment of civil government and for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion...." This amendment marked another step toward completion of the establishment of civil government in the Philippines. (W. Cameron Forbes, The Philippine Islands, New York, 1928, v. 2, 448.)

JUNE 21, 1901. – First Civil Governor (William H. Taft) was appointed. He was inaugurated in Manila the following July 4. The Commission was sole-legislative body for the Islands until the inauguration of the Philippine Assembly on October 16, 1907.

JULY 1, 1901. – The Philippine Bill was approved. This Act of Congress, providing for the administration of the affairs of civil government in the Philippine Islands, is the first organic law for the government of the Philippines under the United States by virtue of this Act the government of the Philippines was made to rest upon the highest constitutional authority, the Congress of the United States. Congress established for the people of the Philippines their civil rights, protecting such rights from arbitrary action and furnishing through them the legal basis of the people's liberties.

Furthermore, Congress provided for the establishment of the Philippine Assembly, which was to be the lower house of the legislature, and was to be composed of representatives elected by the people. The Philippine Commission was to act as the upper house. The legislature was also empowered to send two resident commissioners to the United States.

The law also provided for the protection of the natural resources of the country against foreign exploitation, and for their preservation for the enjoyment and ownership of the Filipino people. (Blue Book of the Inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manila, November 15, 1935, pp. 167-185, David P. Barrows, History of the Philippines, New York, rev. ed., 1926, pp. 290-293.)

OCTOBER 16, 1907. – The First Philippine Assembly was inaugurated by lower house of the legislatures in the Philippines, with the Philippine Commission acting as the upper house until 1916, Sergio Osmeña, elected from

Cebu, the elected speaker, and Manuel L. Quezon, delegate from Tayabas, majority Floor Leader of the Assembly. This body as created in accordance with the Act of July 1, 1902, which empowered the President of the United States to establish a popular assembly two years after the publication of a Census. A Philippine census as taken in 1903 and published in 1905.

OCTOBER 30, 1913. – President Woodrow Wilson appointed a Filipino majority in the membership of the Philippine Commission. This was one of the major steps of the policy of Filipinizing the Philippine Government. Upon assuming office in 1913 as Governor General of the Philippines, Francis Burton Harrison expressed this policy in the following terms:

We regard ourselves as trustees, acting, not for the advantages of the United States, but for the benefit of the people of the Philippine Islands. Every step we take will be taken with a view to ultimate independence, and we hope to move towards that end as rapidly as the safety and the permanent interests of the Islands will permit. (George A. Malcolm, The Commonwealth of the Philippines, New York, 1939, P. 67.)

AUGUST 29, 1916. – The Philippine Autonomy Act, or the “Jones Law”, providing for Filipino autonomy and future independence was approved. The Jones Law became the new organic act for the Philippines, superseding the Act of July 1, 1902. While the Philippine Bill of 1902 did not make any provision for Philippine independence, the Jones Law declared that “it has always been the purpose of the people of the United States to withdraw their sovereignty over the Philippine Islands and to recognize their independence as soon as a stable government can be established.” The Jones Law declared further that “for the speedy accomplishment of such purpose it is desirable to place in the hands of the people of the Philippines as large a control of their domestic affairs as can be given them without; in the meantime, impairing the exercise of the rights of sovereignty by the people of the United States, in order that, by the use and exercise of popular franchise and governmental powers, they may be the better prepared to fully assume the responsibilities and enjoy all the privileges of complete independence.”

Under the Jones Law a new Philippine Legislature was organized, consisting of two houses – a Senate and a House of Representatives. The members of both houses were elected by the Filipino people.

OCTOBER 16, 1916. – The new Philippine Legislature consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives was inaugurated. Manuel L. Quezon was elected President of the Senate, and Sergio Osmeña Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MARCH 24, 1934. The Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed by the Congress of the United States. This was an Act “to provide for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands, to provide for the adoption of a constitution and a form of government for the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes.” (Amended August 7, 1939, q.v.)

This law replaced the Philippine Autonomy Act or the Jones Law of 1916. It authorized the calling of a constitutional convention to frame a republican constitution for the Commonwealth of the Philippines which shall be the government of the Philippines until the withdrawal of American sovereignty.

It fixed the date of recognition of Philippine independence and withdrawal of American sovereignty on July 4, 1946.

FEBRUARY 8, 1935. – The Constitution of the Philippines was adopted by the Constitutional Convention elected for the purpose, in accordance with the Tydings-McDuffie Act. It was approved by the President of the United States on March 23, 1935, and ratified by the Philippine electorate on May 14, 1935. Subsequent amendments were adopted on April 11, 1940, ratified by the people on June 18, 1940, and approved by the President of the United States on December 2, 1940.

The Constitution provides for a republican form of government with each of three departmental powers independent of each other. The executive power is vested in a President of the Philippines; the legislative power in a Congress of the Philippines, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives; and the judicial power in a Supreme Court and inferior courts.

The Constitution further provides for a Bill of Rights, and an Ordinance giving provisions for certain matters pending the final and complete withdrawal of the sovereignty of the United States over the Philippines.

NOVEMBER 15, 1935. – Manuel L. Quezon was inaugurated President of the Philippines and Sergio Osmeña Vice President.

At inauguration ceremonies, Secretary of War George H. Dern, representing President Roosevelt, proclaimed the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines as follows:

By direction of the President of the United States of America, I... do hereby announce that the heretofore existing government of the Philippine is now terminated, and that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, in entering upon its rights, privileges, powers, and duties as provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the laws of the United States of America, is the successor to the heretofore existing Philippine Government and to all the rights and obligations thereof. (Blue Book of the Inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manila, November 15, 1935, p. 51.)

Upon the final and complete withdrawal of the sovereignty of the United States and the proclamation of Philippine independence, the Commonwealth of the Philippines should henceforth be known as the Republic of the Philippines.

AUGUST 7, 1939. – The Tydings-McDuffie Act was amended, with particular reference to the economic provisions. The provision in Section 13 of the Act was amended to read, in part, as follows:

Provided, That at least two years prior to the date fixed in this Act for the independence of the Philippine Islands, there shall be held a conference of representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, such representatives, on the part of the United States, to consist of three United Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and those persons appointed by the President of the United States, and, on the part of the Philippines, to consist of nine representatives to be appointed by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly, for the purpose of relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic, the time, place, and manner of holding such conference to be determined by the President of the United States; but nothing in this provision shall be construed to modify or affect in any way any provision of this Act relating to the procedure leading up to Philippine independence or the date upon which the Philippine Islands shall become independent. (Public No. 300-76th Congress/Chapter 502, 1st Session, R.R. 7096.)

AUGUST 19, 1941. – President Quezon, in a radio address to the United States, said:

In this grave national emergency, the stand of the Filipino people is clear and unmistakable. We owe loyalty to America and we are bound to her by bonds of everlasting gratitude. Should the United States enter the war, the Philippines would follow her and fight by her side, placing at her disposal all our manpower and all our material resources, however limited these might be. We stand with the United States in life and death.

DECEMBER 8, 1941. – The Battle of the Philippines began. As part of the attack upon the United States, Japan invaded the Philippines. The enemy met immediate resistance and was repulsed time and again by the combined Philippine and American Armies under the supreme command of General Douglas MacArthur. These forces consisted of “19,000 United States Army troops, 12,000 Philippine Scouts, and approximately 100,000 men of the newly mobilized and out partially trained and equipped Philippine Army.” (Biennial Report of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1943 to the Secretary of War.)

The defenders were greatly outnumbered by the enemy. After some four months of constant fighting, short rations, disease, lack of medicine and sheer physical exhaustion, Bataan surrendered on April 9, followed by Corregidor on May 6. Some 3,000 American soldiers and 20,000 Filipino soldiers died.

“The effects of the desperate resistance offered by the Philippine Army and United States forces in Bataan,” says General Marshall in his biennial report cited above, “holding as they did a sizable portion of Japanese strength, were now being felt. During the delay thus gained men and materials were dispatched to Australia, New Caledonia and other Pacific islands.”

Further in the report General Marshall declares” “The major miscalculation of the Japanese was the apparent expectation that the Russian Army would collapse under the German grand assault then underway against Moscow which ended in the first winter-fiasco. Also unanticipated was the prolonged defense of the Philippine Islands which upset their timetable for other offensive operations in the southwest Pacific, including Australia.”

DECEMBER 28, 1941. – In a proclamation to the people of the Philippines, President Roosevelt declared:

I give to the people of the Philippine my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and materials of the United States stand behind that pledge.

DECEMBER 30, 1941. – President Quezon and Vice President Osmeña, who had been reelected November 11, 1941, began their second term. They were sworn into office by Chief Justice Jon Abad Santos while Corregidor was being subjected to bombardment by the enemy. Witness to the simple ceremonies included United States High Commissioner to the Philippines, Francis B. Sayre, and his family, General Douglas McArthur and his family, United States Army officers and nurses, and other officials representing both governments.

On this occasion the President of the United States declared: “It is a source of pride and satisfaction to all American who are familiar with the history of Philippine-American relations to show that in times of crisis such as now comments this Government, the Filipino people are ready and eager to stand shoulder to shoulder with the American people in the common defense. For more than 40 years American and Filipino statesmen have labored unceasingly for a better understanding of Philippine-American relations. No better evidence that their labors have not been in vain could be found than the manner in which the Filipino people have, in the present emergency, made common cause with the people of the United States.”

MAY 13, 1942. – With the arrival of President Quezon and his official staff in Washington, the President of the Philippines established the Philippine Government’s headquarters in the capital of the United States.

JUNE 14, 1942. – The Philippines became one of the United Nations when President Quezon, on behalf of his country, signed the Declaration by the United Nations.

JUNE 17, 1942. – The Philippines was represented for the first time in the Pacific War Council by President Quezon.

FEBRUARY 20, 1943. – President Quezon, in a broadcast to the Philippines, declared:

President Roosevelt has, in effect, already given the Philippines recognition as an independent nation.

On my arrival in Washington, he rendered me honors due only to the heads of independent government.....

He has recognized our right to take part in the Pacific War Council, with Great Britain, China, the Netherlands, and the self-governing Dominions of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.....

In the name of the Philippines, I am a signatory to the Atlantic Charter. We are one of the United Nations. And whether the war is over before or after July 4, 1946, the date fixed for the establishment of the Philippine Republic, I am certain that we shall have our own representation in the Peace Conference.

... Our independence is already a reality since the President of the United States, by his several official acts enumerated above, has given recognition to the Philippines as possessed of the attributes of full nationhood. The only thing lacking is the formal establishment of the Philippine Republic.

As regards postwar plans, President Quezon declares:

With the help of the United States, we shall rebuild our ravaged land, and make of it a prosperous member of the family of free nations.

President Roosevelt and I have already agreed that studies be made now for the economic rehabilitation of the Philippines, so that we shall be ready to proceed with the gigantic task of rebuilding our country as soon as the enemy is expelled.

President Roosevelt has authorized the State Department to discuss with me the question of our future security and of the safeguarding forever the mutual interests of the United States and the Philippines in the Pacific area.

In concluding President Quezon said, "Above all, you must continue to have faith in America, which has kept faith with every nation, and especially with us."

The text of this broadcast was previously approved by President Roosevelt.

AUGUST 13, 1943. – President Roosevelt, in broadcast to the Philippines, declares that the United States; in practice, regards the lawful Government of the Philippines in Washington, D.C., "as having the same status as the governments of other independent nations." He further declared:

The Philippine Government is a signatory of the Declaration by the United Nations, along with thirty one other nations. President Quezon and Vice-President Osmeña attend the meetings of the Pacific War Council, where the war in the Pacific is charted and planned. Your Government has participated fully and equally in the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, and a Philippine representative is a member of the Interim Commission created by that Conference. And, of course the Philippine Government will have its rightful place in the conferences which will follow the defeat of Japan.

These are attributes of complete and respected nationhood for the Philippines, not a promise but a fact.

As President Quezon himself has told you, "the only thin lacking is the formal establishment of the Philippine Republic." These words of your President were uttered to you with my prior knowledge and approval. I now repeat them to you myself. I give the Filipino people my word that the Republic of the Philippines will be established the moment the power of our Japanese enemies is destroyed.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1943. – Senator Millard E. Tydings, Chairman of the Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, introduced a joint resolution, providing, among other things, that "the President of the United States is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into negotiations with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands for proclaiming the independence of the Philippine Islands as a separate and self-governing nation, not later than 30 days after the enactment of this resolution."

OSS-PR 106
9/26/43

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Press Release. (1943). Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Message of United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the American Congress, recommending legislation advancing the date of Philippine independence, October 6, 1943

**Message
of
His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States of America
To the American Congress, recommending legislation advancing the date of Philippine independence**

[Released on October 6, 1943]

Following is United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt's message to the American Congress on October 6, 1943, recommending legislation advancing the date of Philippine independence, providing full security for the Philippines after independence, assisting in making the Philippines economically secure, and making provision for the physical and economic rehabilitation of the Philippines. Acting on this recommendation, the United States Congress passed on June 29, 1944, Joint Resolutions Nos. 93 and 94, published in the Official Gazette of April, 1945.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Since the Japanese launched their attack on the Philippine Islands, I have on several occasions addressed messages on behalf of the American people to the courageous people of the Philippines—expressing our admiration of their heroism and loyalty. I have assured them that the Government of the United States of America will see to it that their independence will be promptly established, and—still more important—that it will be protected. The resources of the United States, in men and materials, stand behind that pledge to the people of the Philippines. We shall keep that promise just as we have kept every promise which the United States has made to the Filipino people.

The Philippine Government, now in the United States, has been collaborating with the rest of the United Nations in the united task of destroying our common enemies in the east and in the west. As I stated on August 12, 1943, the United States, in practice, regards the Philippines as having now the same status as the governments of other independent nations—in fact all the attributes of complete and respected nationhood.

I am sure that the American people believe that the Filipino people have earned the right juridically to be free and independent.

The date now set by statute and by the vote of the people and legislature of the Philippine Islands for independence is July 4, 1946. It is possible, however, that the fortunes of war will permit an early consummation of this joint will of the American and Filipino people.

I, therefore, recommend legislation by the Congress giving the President the authority, after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, to advance the date provided in existing law and to proclaim the legal independence of the Philippines as a separate and self-governing nation, as soon as feasible.

If the Congress takes this action, there are several steps which, in my opinion, are necessary to make good our pledge that the independence of the Philippines will be protected in the future, and to give them the opportunity of economic rehabilitation which is their due.

I, therefore, also recommend:

1. That the Congress make provision authorizing the President of the United States and the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands to enter into immediate negotiations and take the necessary steps to provide for full security for the Philippines, for the mutual protection of the Islands and of the United States, and for the future maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

(2) That the Congress make provisions for determining the adjustment necessary in the existing provisions of law which govern the economic relations between the United States and the Philippines, so as to assist in making the Philippines, as an independent nation, economically secure wherever possible.

(3) That the Congress make provision for the physical and economic rehabilitation of the Philippines made necessary by the ravages of war which the invaders have inflicted upon them.

All of this is due to the Filipino people in recognition of their heroic role in this war, the political ties which have bound us together and the bonds of friendship which will join us together in the future.

Such action on the part of the Congress would assure the Philippine people again of our sincerity of purpose, and of our resolution to accord them as soon as feasible the legal status of complete freedom, independence and nationhood to which, as a member of the United Nations, they are entitled.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE
October 6, 1943.

WHITE

HOUSE

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Philippine currency committee vacancy filling, October 10, 1943

TO: GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

8996 TENTH OCT 43

Send to Iloilo Currency Committee. I appoint the assistant manager Iloilo branch Philippine National Bank, Juan Buenafe, as acting manager and chairman currency committee to fill vacancy due inability Cenon Fervantes. Committee must follow strictly instructions heretofore given by me to Confesor and instructions given by General MacArthur with my approval to Peralta regarding funds for the Army. (WDGBI STRONG FOR PERALTA) Regret to learn that Confesor cannot be found. I hope there will be full cooperation between you. I expect you to see to it that instructions given by me to Confesor and those given by General MacArthur for Army expenses are strictly followed. Thanks.

Quezon to MacArthur. From Peraltas message in your unnumbered 6 October, I suspect that he and Confesor are not getting on well and I fear that Peralta is trying to get the upper hand in the printing and disposition of the currency. Please watch situation closely and give Peralta the proper advice.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Philippine currency committee vacancy filling]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Memorandum of General MacArthur on the adjusted military compensation, October 19, 1943

SECRET X

PRIORITY X

19 OCTOBER 1943

CC:eeb

AGWAR

We can spare PAREN for President Quezon PAREN Villamor and I will send him to you on arrival PD () Have little hope for Cruz PD His present whereabouts are unknown PD Suggestions as to Philippine decorations are entirely appropriate and I will have citations prepared here if you desire PD There are practical difficulties in the plan of authorizing a December bonus for military personnel and civil servants PD Due to scarcity of currency almost all salaries are in arrears PD Such action might be misinterpreted and engender belief that full payments had heretofore been unnecessarily withheld PD I recommend instead that you send a letter to the Filipino people CMA which I will have circulated pledging your personal support CMA immediately following the war CMA for legislation designed to provide payment of all arrears of compensation due CMA adjustment of all inequities incident to the war CMA pension relief and appropriate measures designed to immortalize the guerilla movement PD If you determine upon the latter course I would be glad to prepare tentative draft of such a letter for you if you wish PD San Agustin had left for Manila before the questions contained in your radio of twentieth September could be communicated to him PD However CMA he is scheduled to return to Mindanao soon CMA at which time I will secure the information you desire PD It may be possible later to bring him out should you feel it necessary to personally interview him

MACARTHUR

OFFICIAL:

R. K. Sutherland,
Major General, U.S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Source: Quezon Family Collections

MacArthur, D. (1943). [General MacArthur's memorandum for adjusted military compensation]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Declaration of Four Nations on General Security, October 30, 1943

**DECLARATION OF FOUR NATIONS ON GENERAL
SECURITY**

At a conference held in Moscow from the 19th to the 30th of October, 1943, the Foreign Secretaries of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China adopted the following joint declaration:

The Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China:

United in their determination, in accordance with the Declaration by the United Nations of January 1, 1942, and subsequent declarations, to continue hostilities against those Axis powers with which they respectively are at war until such powers have laid down their arms on the basis of unconditional surrender; conscious of their responsibility to secure the liberation of themselves and the peoples allied with them from the menace of aggression;

Recognizing the necessity of insuring a rapid and orderly transition from war to peace and of establishing and maintaining international peace and security with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources armaments;

Jointly declare:

1. That their united action, pledged for the prosecution of the war against their respective enemies, will be continued for the organization and maintenance of peace and security.
2. That those of them at war with a common enemy will act together in all matters relating to the surrender and disarmament of that enemy.
3. That they will take all measures deemed by them to be necessary to provide against any violation of the terms imposed upon the enemy.
4. That they recognize the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, and open to membership of all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security.
5. That for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security pending the reestablishment of law and order and the inauguration of a system of general security, they will consult with one another and as occasion requires with other members of the United Nations with a view to joint action on behalf of the community of nations.
6. That after the termination of hostilities they will not employ their military forces within the territories of other states except for the purposes envisaged in this declaration and after joint consultation.
7. That they will confer and coöperate with one another and with other members of the United Nations to bring about a practicable general agreement with respect to the regulation of armaments in the post-war period.

V. MOLOTOV
ANTHONY EDEN
CORDELL HULL
FOO PING-SHEUNG

MOSCOW, October 30, 1943.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of Vice President Osmeña on relinquishing his right to be President, November 11, 1943

**Speech
of
Honorable Sergio Osmeña
Vice President of the Philippines
On relinquishing his right to be President**

[Released on November 11, 1943]

My Countrymen:

A joint resolution was passed by Congress continuing President Quezon in office for the duration of the war. Under this resolution, which has been approved by the President of the United States, my right to succeed to the presidency on November 15, 1943, has been postponed until constitutional processes shall have been restored in the Philippines, Congress acted on this matter upon the request of the Philippine Government in exile and this action of the Philippine Government was taken on my own initiative. I owe it to my people who gave me their confidence in the last elections to state the reasons for my action.

If we were in normal times, my duty would be clear and simple: I would have to assume the presidency on the 15th of this month as a matter of right. But these are not normal times. Our country not only is at war, but also is occupied by the enemy.

Under these circumstances, our principal concern and primary consideration is to win the war, liberate our people from the invaders, and establish the independence of our country. The question naturally arises: What is the best thing to do in order to help accomplish these aims?

It is unnecessary for me to remind you that President Quezon was the head of our government at the time of the outbreak of the war and that it was his lot to lead our people by the side of the United States. Faithfully and courageously, he has complied with his duty even with his health greatly impaired. His voice continues to encourage our people to resist the enemy and to keep faith with the United States. It was he who signed for us the Declaration of the United Nations. Due to his efforts the Philippines has been given a seat in the Pacific War Council.

Moreover, those responsible for the prosecution of the war on the part of the United States have expressed to me their concern over the possible effect of the change of leadership at this time. They said that the enemy would take advantage of President Quezon's retirement from active leadership by telling the Filipinos that President Quezon had withdrawn from the fight and that he was no longer interested in this war. They added that the morale of the Filipinos still fighting the enemy in the mountains of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao and receiving inspiration from him might weaken if President Quezon retired. Furthermore, they told me that in their opinion, based on recent information from the front, the unity of our people in general would be better maintained and secured with the retention of President Quezon in office since that would mean that both of us would continue working together.

The presidential succession therefore ceased to be a domestic matter involving only our own interests and desires. Related, as it was, to the war, it became a matter that concerned not ourselves alone but also the United States.

With the redemption of our country uppermost in my mind and with the conviction that this objective cannot be achieved without the full support, much less without the leadership, of the United States, I prepared the letter which the Philippine Government approved and sent to Congress. In that letter, the matter of the presidential succession was placed before Congress with the request that they review the whole situation and take such action as in their wisdom will best serve the interest of the Filipino people, their constitutional government and the government of the United States during this emergency.

Congress, after thorough consideration, passed the joint resolution providing for the continuance in office of President Quezon for the duration of the war. This resolution expresses the considered judgment of the American people. I accept it without reserve and I urge every Filipino, whether in the home land, in continental United States, in Hawaii or anywhere else, to accept this congressional action which is intended to safe guard the best interests of the two peoples.

As for me, I consider it my inescapable duty to continue giving to President Quezon's leadership my utmost support and cooperation so that the Commonwealth Government now in Washington may render the greatest service to the Philippines and the Filipinos. It is my desire to assist the Commonwealth Government in its endeavor to make every Filipino, wherever he may be, feel that he is close to his government which is always solicitous of his interest and welfare.

Fellow Countrymen: These are critical days for individuals as well as nations. Our sense of responsibility as a people and the strength of our national solidarity have once more been tested. We have again proved our unity. With this action, we have shown the world that when the freedom of our country and the validity of our commitments are at stake, there are no differences among us and selfish considerations carry no weight in our decisions.

Osmeña, S. (1943). Speech of Honorable Sergio Osmeña Vice President of the Philippines on relinquishing his right to be President. *Miscellaneous Publications*, [pp. 109-113].

Memorandum of President Quezon to General MacArthur on the Distinguished Service Star of the Philippines Awardees, November 15, 1943

TO: GENERAL MAC ARTHUR

FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

496 FIFTEENTH NOV 43

Distinguished Service Star of the Philippines awarded by me this date to following:

Major Ralph B. Praeger

Colonel Wendell W. Fertig

Colonel Macario Peralta Jr.

Lt. Commander Charles Parsons

Lt. Colonel Ruperto J. Kangleon

Lt. Colonel Gabriel R. Gador

Major Salvador Abcede

Major Placido Ausejo

Major Pedro Meritt

Citations will follow by mail. Please inform all persons mentioned. (WDGBI Strong)

TOO: 160638L

RECD MSG CEN: 160747L

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1943). [Memorandum of President Manuel L. Quezon on Distinguished Service Star]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

General Statement: United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, and Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek on the war against Japan, November 25, 1943

**General Statement of United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, and Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek:
On the war against Japan**

[Issued at the conclusion of a conference held in Cairo from the 22nd to the 25th of November, 1943, November 25, 1943]

**GENERAL STATEMENT BY THREE GREAT ALLIES ON
THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN**

The several military missions have agreed upon future military operations against Japan.

The three great Allies expressed their resolve to bring unrelenting pressure against their brutal enemies by sea, land and air. This pressure is already rising.

The three great Allies are fighting this war to restrain and punish the aggression of Japan.

They covet no gain for themselves and have no thought of territorial expansion.

It is their purpose that Japan shall be stripped of all the islands in the Pacific which she has seized or occupied since the beginning of the first World War in 1914, and that all the territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores, shall be restored to the Republic of China.

Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed.

The aforesaid three great powers, mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in due course Korea shall become free and independent.

With these objects in view, the three Allies, in harmony with those of the United Nations at war with Japan, will continue to persevere in the serious and prolonged operations necessary to procure the unconditional surrender of Japan.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message from Gatbiala to General MacArthur on the accomplished Manila mission, November 26, 1943

26 November 1943.

TO: General MacArthur
FROM: Andrews

NR 199 26 November.

Following from GATBIALA to MacArthur:

“Accomplished Manila mission successfully and contacted all persons personally. ALTO wants constitution upheld and respected. HIRANG wants old man to continue if it can be done constitutionally. PANDAC and Justice Avancena want old man to continue for good of cause. COMPADRE entirely helpless and in a mist. Taba Nonoy Bulotong and Paredes are very true and loyal. All Filipino generals and CHIQUIT loyal and true. PEPING is in a very thick mist. General Lim feigning sickness to avoid working for Nips. DIT DIT is in a convent as sister of mercy. PALITO marrying Iduardo Morato. CASTILA loyal at heart. JUCZJUEZ Amuntin and SPASQUAS are all well. Independence is a farce and people take it as a joke. Ninety-eight per cent of people and government employees are true and loyal. They are mere interested in the return of American forces than anything else. Feeling of hatred against enemy is at very high tension and a slight sigh of American help will cause general uprising all over. Secretary Sison, Bonifacio, San Victores, Silayan and Guinto are blowing bubbles in the air. HIRANG thin and has tuberculosis. Request that I return to Washington as soon as possible.”

GATBIALANO in North Negros awaiting instructions. Request above information be transmitted to President Quezon.

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Andrews. (1943). Information from GATBIALA to General MacArthur. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Declaration of the Three Powers, December 1, 1943

DECLARATION OF THE THREE POWERS

After conversations held at Teheran from November 28 to December 1, 1943, the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Premier of the Soviet Union adopted the following joint declaration:

We, the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Premier of the Soviet Union, have met in these four days past in this capital of our ally, Teheran, and have shaped and confirmed our common policy.

We express our determination that our nations shall work together in the war and in the peace that will follow.

As to the war, our military staffs have joined in our round-table discussions, and we have concerted our plans for the destruction of the German forces. We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of operations which will be undertaken from the east, west and south. The common understanding which we have here reached guarantees that victory will be ours.

And as to the peace, we are sure that our concord will make it an enduring peace. We recognize fully the supreme responsibility resting upon us and all the United Nations to make a peace which will command good will from the overwhelming masses of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations.

With our diplomatic advisers we have surveyed the problems of the future. We shall seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and in mind are dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance. We will welcome them as they may choose to come in to the world family of democratic nations.

No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, their U-boats by sea, and their war plants from the air. Our attacks will be relentless and increasing.

Emerging from these friendly conferences we look with confidence to the day when all the peoples of the world may live free lives untouched by tyranny and according to their varying desires and their own consciences.

We came here with hope and determination. We leave here friends in fact, in spirit and in purpose.

Signed at Teheran, December 1, 1943.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Joint Army-Navy Release, January 27, 1944

FUTURE RELEASE
PLEASE NOTE DATE

FUTURE

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
PRESS BRANCH
Tel. – RE 6700
Brs. 3425 and 4860

FOR RELEASE AT MIDNIGHT, EWT, JANUARY 27-28, 1944. NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST
PRIOR TO THAT TIME OF SENT OUTSIDE OF THE CONTINENTAL LIMITS OF THE UNITED STATES
UNTIL AFTER THAT TIME

JOINT ARMY-NAVY RELEASE

The factual and official story of how the Japanese tortured, starved to death and sometimes wantonly murdered American and Filipino soldiers who had been taken prisoner on Bataan and Corregidor was jointly released last night the Army and Navy.

The facts were taken from reports made by Commander Melvyn H. McCoy, United States Navy, of 1126 LaSalle Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; Lieutenant Colonel S. M. Mellnik, Coast Artillery Corps, of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and Lieutenant S. M. Mellnik, Coast Artillery Corps, of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and Lieutenant Colonel (then Captain) William E. Dyess, Air Corps, of Albany, Texas, all of whom escaped from the Philippine after almost a year as Japanese prisoners. Their sworn statements included no hearsay whatever, but only facts which the officers related from their own personal experience and observations. The statements have been verified from other sources. After he made his statement to the War Department, Colonel Dyess was killed in a crash of his fighter plane at Burbank, California, while he was preparing to go back and fight the Japanese who had tortured him. Colonel Mellnik is now on duty with General Mac Arthur, Commander McCoy is on duty in this country.

The three officers stated that several times as many American prisoners of war have died, mostly of starvation, forced hard labor, and general brutality, as the Japanese have ever reported. At one prison camp, Camp O'Donnell, about 2,200 American prisoners died in April and May 1942. In the camp at Cabanatuan, about 3,000 Americans had died up to the end of October 1942. Still heavier mortality occurred among the Filipino prisoners of war at Camp O'Donnell.

While this report deals exclusively with the records of Commander McCoy, Colonel Mellnick and Colonel Dyess, other Americans known to have escaped from Japanese prison camps in the Philippine include Major Michiel Dobervitch of Ironton, Minnesota, Major Austin C. Shofner of Shelbyville, Tennessee, Major Jack Hawkins of Roxton, Texas, and Corporal Reid Carlos Chamberlain of El Cajone, California, all of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The calculated Japanese campaign of brutality against the battle-spent, hungry American and Filipino soldiers on Bataan began as they surrendered with what was always thereafter known among its survivors as "The March of Death." Commander McCoy and Colonel Mellnik, who were taken prisoner at Corregidor, did not take part in this, but Colonel Dyess, who did so, said:

"Though beaten, hungry and tired from the terrible last days of combat on Bataan, though further resistance was hopeless, our American soldiers and their Filipino comrades in arms would not have surrendered had they known the fate in store for them."

"The March of Death" began when thousands of prisoners were herded together at Mariveles air field on Bataan at daylight on April 10, 1942, after their surrender. Though some had food, neither Americans nor Filipinos were

permitted to eat any of it by their guards. They were searched and their personal belongings taken from them. Those who had Japanese tokens or money in their possession were beheaded.

In groups of 500 to 1,000 men, the prisoners were marched along the national road off Bataan toward San Fernando, in Pampanga Province. Those marchers who still had personal "belongings were stripped of them; the Japanese slapped and beat them with sticks, as they marched along without food or water on a scorchingly hot day. Colonel Dyess, in a middle group, gave this description of "The March of Death:"

"A Japanese soldier took my canteen, gave the water to a horse, and threw the canteen away. We passed a Filipino prisoner of war who had "been bayonotted. Men recently killed were lying along the roadside, many had "been run over and flattened "by Japanese trucks. Many American prisoners were forced to act as porters for military equipment. Such treatment caused the death of a sergeant in my squadron, the 21st Pursuit. Patients "bombed out of a nearby hospital, half dazed and wandering about in pajamas and slippers, were thrown into our marching column of prisoners. What their fate was I do not know. At ten o'clock that night we were forced to retrace our march for two hours, for no apparent reason.

"At midnight we were crowded into an enclosure too narrow to lie down. An officer asked permission to get water and a Japanese guard beat him with a rifle butt. Finally a Japanese officer permitted us to drink water from a nearby carabao wallow.

"Before daylight the next morning, the eleventh, we were awakened and marched down the road. Japanese trucks speeded by. A Japanese soldier swung his rifle from one of them in passing, and knocked an American prisoner unconscious beside the road,

"Through the dust clouds and blistering heat, we marched that entire day without food. We were allowed to drink dirty water from a roadside stream at noon. Some time later three officers were taken from our marching column, thrown into an automobile and driven off. I never learned what became of them. They never arrived at any of the prison camps.

"Our guards repeatedly promised us food, but never produced it. The night of the eleventh, we again were searched and then the march resumed. Totally done in American and Filipino prisoners fell out frequently, and threw themselves moaning beside the roadside. The stronger were not permitted to help the weaker. We then would hear shots behind us.

"At three o'clock on the morning of April 12, they shooed us into a barbed-wire bull pen big enough to accommodate 200. We were 1200 inside the pen—no room to lie down, human filth and maggots were everywhere.

"Throughout the twelfth, we were introduced to a form of torture which came to be known, as the sun treatment. We were made to sit in the boiling sun all day long without cover. We had very little water; our thirst was intense. Many of us went crazy and several died. The Japanese dragged out the sick and delirious. Three Filipino and three American soldiers were buried while still alive.

"On the thirteenth, each of those who survived was given a mess kit of rice. We were given another full day of the sun treatment. At nightfall, we were forced to resume our march. We marched without water until dawn of April 14, with one two-hour interval when we were permitted to sit beside the roadside.

"The very pace of our march itself was a torture. Sometimes we had to go very fast, with the Japanese pacing us on bicycles. At other times, we were forced to shuffle along very slowly. The muscles of my legs began to draw and each step was an agony.

"Filipino civilians tried to help both Filipino and American soldiers by tossing us food and cigarettes from windows or from behind houses. Those who were caught were beaten. The Japanese had food stores along the roadside. A United States Army colonel pointed to some of the cans of salmon and asked for food for his men. A Japanese

officer picked up a can and hit the colonel in the face with it, cutting his cheek wide open. Another colonel and a brave Filipino picked up three American soldiers who had collapsed “before the Japs could get to them. They placed them on a cart and started down the road toward San Fernando. The Japanese seized them as well as the soldiers, who were in a coma, and horse-whipped then fiercely.

“Along the road in the Province of Pampanga there are many wells. Half-crazed with thirst, six Filipino soldiers made a dash for one of the wells. All six were killed. As we passed Lubao we marched “by a Filipino soldier gutted and hanging over a “barbed-wire fence. Late that night of the fourteenth we were jammed into another “bull pen at San Fernando with again no room to lie down. During the night Japanese soldiers with fixed “bayonets charged into the compound to terrorize the prisoners.

“Before daylight on April 15 we were marched out and 115 of us were packed into a small narrow-gauge “box car. The doors were closed and locked. Movement was impossible. Many of the prisoners were suffering from diarrhea and dysentery. The heat and stench were unbearable. We all wondered if we would get out of the box car alive. At Capiz Tarlac we were taken out and given the sun treatment for three hours. Then we were marched to Camp O’Donnell, a prison camp under construction, surrounded with barbed wire and high towers, with separate inner compounds of wire. On this last leg of the journey the Japanese permitted the stronger to carry the weaker.

“I made that march of about 85 miles in six days on one mess kit of rice. Other Americans made ‘The March of Death’ in twelve days, without any food whatever. Much of the time, of course, they were given the sun treatment along the way.”

The prisoners taken at Corregidor, among whom were Commander McCoy and Colonel Mellnik, had no experience quite like the death march. But after the surrender, the 7,000 Americans and 5,000 Filipinos were concentrated in a former balloon station known as the Kindley Field Garage area—by that time only a square of concrete about 100 yards to the side, with one side extending into the water of the bay. The 12,000 prisoners, including all the wounded who were able to walk, were kept on this concrete floor without food for a week. There was only one water spigot for the 12,000 men and a twelve-hour wait to fill a canteen was the usual rule. After seven days the men received their first rations—one mess kit of rice and a can of sardines.

The Corregidor prisoners were forced to march through Manila on May 23, 1942, having previously been forced to jump out of the barges which brought them over from the island while they were still a hundred yards from the beach. Thus, said Colonel Mellnik, “we were marched through Manila presenting the worst appearance possible—wet, bedraggled, hungry, thirsty, and many so weak from illness they could hardly stand.” Commander McCoy added, however, that the Japanese purpose of making this a triumphal victory parade was frustrated by the friendliness of Filipino civilians.

“All during the march-through Manila,” said Commander McCoy, “the heat was terrific. The weaker ones in our ranks began to stumble during the first mile. These were cuffed back into the line and made to march until they dropped. If no guards were in the immediate vicinity, the Filipinos along the route tried to revive the prisoners with ices, water and fruit. These Filipinos were severely beaten if caught by the guards.”

Colonel Dyess’ sworn statement declared that the Japanese officer commanding Camp O’Donnell, where the survivors of the Bataan death march were imprisoned, delivered a speech to the American and Filipino soldiers telling them that they were not prisoners of war and would not be treated as such, but were captives without rights or privileges.

There were virtually no water facilities at Camp O’Donnell. Prisoners stood in line for six to ten hours to get a drink. They wore the same clothing without change for a month and a half. Colonel Dyess waited 35 days for his first bath, and then had one gallon of water for it.

The principal food at Camp O’Donnell was rice. The prisoners received meat twice in two months, and then not enough to give as many as a quarter of them a piece an inch square. A few times the prisoners had comoties, an inferior type of sweet potato. Many were rotten and had to be thrown away. Prisoners themselves had to post guards

to prevent the starving from eating the rotten potatoes. The intermittent ration of potato was one spoonful per man. Once or twice the prisoners received a few mango beans, a type of cow pea, a little flour to make a paste gravy for the rice, and a spoonful each of coconut lard. Colonel Dyess' diet for the entire 361 days he was a prisoner of the Japanese, with the exception of some American and British Red Cross food he received, was a sort of watery juice with a little paste and rice. Some Japanese operated a black market and sold those prisoners who had money a small can of fish for five dollars.

After the prisoners had been at Camp O'Donnell for one week, the death rate American soldiers was 20 a day, and among Filipino soldiers 150 a day. After two weeks the death rate had increased to 50 a day among Americans and 500 a day among Filipinos. To find men strong enough to dig graves was a problem, Shallow trenches were dug to hold ten bodies each.

"The actual conditions I find impossible to describe," Colonel Dyess' statement reads. "It is impossible from a description to visualize how horrible they really were."

One dilapidated building was set aside and called a hospital. Hundreds of men lay naked on the bare floor without covering of any kind. There was no medicine of any kind. The doctors had not even water to wash human waste from their patients. Some afflicted with dysentery remained out in the weather near the latrines until they died,

Men shrank from 200 pounds to 90. They had no buttocks. They were human skeletons.

"It was plain and simple starvation," Colonel Dyess' statement reads. "It was difficult to look at a man lying still and determine whether he was dead or alive."

The Japanese promised medicines, but never produced them. Once the Japanese allowed the Red Cross at Manila to bring in quinine. How much, the prisoners never found out. The Japanese did not issue enough to cure ten cases of malaria and there were thousands.

The sick as well as those merely starving were forced into labor details by the Japanese. Many times men did not return from work. By May 1, 1942, only about 20 out of every company of 200 were able to go on work details. Many died in the barracks overnight. Frequently, for no apparent reason, the prisoners were forced to line up and stand in the sun for hours.

Around June 1, the American prisoners at Camp O'Donnell were separated from their Filipino comrades in arms and moved to Cabanatuan Concentration Camp in Luzon. There Colonel Dyess joined Colonel Mellnik and Commander McCoy,

Conditions at Cabanatuan were slightly improved—there was adequate drinking water and muddy seepage wells provided water for bathing. Japanese brutality continued, however:

"I had been at Cabanatuan one day," Colonel Dyess' statement reads, "when a Jap came through the barracks looting. He found a watch hidden in some equipment of a man not present. As I was sitting nearby, he punched me severely to show his feeling at the idea of a prisoner still having a watch."

Rice remained the principal diet at Cabanatuan. On one occasion the Japanese gave the American prisoners three chickens for 500 men, and on another occasion 50 eggs for 500 men. As a result, their propaganda later told the world that American prisoners in the Philippines were being fed on chickens and eggs.

Officers were not forced to work at Cabanatuan, but could volunteer to take out work details. Colonel Dyess so volunteered.

"The Japs frequently mistreated Americans working for them," his statement reads. "Once when a frail American private was not digging a ditch to suit his guard, the guard grabbed the shovel from him and beat him across the

hack with it. The boy had to be sent to the hospital. One Jap carried a golf club and beat the men working for him the way one wouldn't "beat a horse. When two Americans were caught getting food from a Filipino, they were "beaten unmercifully on the face and "body. After a doctor dressed their wounds, the Japs took sticks and beat them again."

Men were literally worked to death. It was not unusual for 20 per cent of a work detail to be worked to death. In one instance, 75 per cent were killed that way.

Commander McCoy reported that two American Army officers and a Navy officer attempted to escape from Cabanatuan, which was thickly ringed with barbed wire, and had machine gun emplacements and towers outside the wire. The officers were caught moving down a drain ditch to get under the wire.

Their Japanese captors beat them about the feet and legs till they could no longer stand, then kicked the officers and jumped on them. The next morning the three Americans stripped to their waists, were taken out on the road in full view of the camp, their hands were tied behind them, and they were pulled up by ropes from an overhead pulley, so that they had to remain standing, but bent forward to ease the pressure on their arms.

They were kept in this position in the blazing sun for two full days. Periodically the Japanese beat them with a two-by-four, and any Filipino unlucky enough to pass that way was compelled to beat them too. If he failed to beat them hard enough, the Japanese beat him. After two days of this, one of the officers was beheaded and the other two were shot.

The Japanese made every effort to humiliate their prisoners of war. They would force them to stand and call them vile names. When one older American colonel turned away from a Japanese reviling him, he was knocked unconscious with a blackjack. American flags were habitually and designedly used as rags in the Japanese kitchens.

The death rate at Cabanatuan for June and July, 1942, was 30 Americans a day, according to the sworn statements of the three officers. The rate for August, 1942, was more than 20 a day. The rate for September, 15 a day—because by that time most of the weaker men were already dead. During October, 1942, the rate ranged upward from 16 a day to 19 a day and was increasing when Colonel Dyess, Colonel Mellnik, and Commander McCoy left on October 26, 1942.

By that date, 3,000 of the 12,200 Army, Navy and Marine Corps prisoners at Cabanatuan had died. There were 2,500 in the hospitals, and the American doctors doubted that any of them would live.

The chief cause of death was starvation. This was definitely established by autopsies performed by both American and Japanese doctors. After it was determined that the men were starving to death, the Japanese answer was that there was no food available. There was a great abundance of food available in the Philippines at the time.

Other diseases caused indirectly by starvation were wet beri beri (in which the feet, ankles and head swell to twice their size), dry beri beri, dysentery, diarrhea, malaria, scurvy, blindness, diphtheria, yellow jaundice, and dengue fever. Several men went completely blind.

The Japanese eventually permitted the Red Cross in Manila to send medical supplies, but after they arrived they were not unpacked for many days and during this period many died. Colonel Dyess had dengue had dengue fever, yellow jaundice and later scurvy sores. His weight shrank from 175 to 130 pounds, and he was given no medicine. At 130 pounds, he was considered a fat man in the camp.

High Japanese officers regularly inspected the camp and knew of conditions. During inspections, prisoners were forced to wear their best clothes, which were rags—some men had no shirts, only trousers, and many had no shoes.

One inspection, said Colonel Mellnik, was conducted by a Japanese general. An American lieutenant colonel was called out to accompany the general's group pointed out that many officers and enlisted men were too weak to stand in the banks.

"We have many sick here," he said courageously. The Japanese general, who spoke excellent English, asked:

"Why?"

The mess "barracks" was nearby. The American lieutenant colonel pointed to a meal of white rice and thin carrot-top soup.

"Here is why," he said, "We are all starving."

"That will be enough," snapped the Japanese general. "Your men are not starving. They need more exercise."

The lieutenant colonel tried to say more, but Japanese guards quickly stepped in and restrained him. The Japanese general curtly turned on his heel and continued his inspection with an air of boredom and indifference.

The Japanese took 400 prisoners who were technical men, gave them a physical examination, issued clothes to them, and sent them to Japan to work in factories. Another shipment of 1,000 technical men for Japan was being arranged when Colonel Dyess, Colonel Mellnik, and Commander McCoy left Cabanatuan on October 26, 1942. These three officers and 966 other American officers and enlisted men had been crowded into the hold of a 7,000-ton British-built freighter at Manila for shipment to Davao on the island of Mindanao, with stops at Cebu and Iloilo.

The voyage took eleven days. The hold was filthy and vermin-infested. Some prisoners were lucky enough to get a place on the junk-filled, rain-swept deck. Two men died on the trip. On November 7, 1942, the Americans were unloaded at Lansang Lumber Company, near Davao Penal Colony. The sun treatment for two hours followed and then the group was forced to march more than 15 miles to the penal colony. Many were so weakened they fell by the roadside. In this instance, Japanese picked them up, threw them into trucks, and carried them along.

It developed that the Japanese commanding officer at the penal colony, which in peace times had been operated for criminals by the Philippine Bureau of Prisons, was disturbed when he saw the condition of the Americans. He had requested able-bodied laborers. Instead, he shouted, he had been sent walking corpses.

In spite of the condition of the prisoners, they were without exception put to hard labor—chaplains, officers, and enlisted men alike. Colonel Dyess, barefooted for a month and a half, was forced to clear jungle and plow every day.

During Colonel Dyess' 361 days as a prisoner of war, he received \$10 in pay from the Japanese. To get the \$10 he was forced to sign a statement paying that he had received more than \$250, with clothes, food, and lodging. No clothes were issued until American and British Red Cross supplies began to arrive at Davao, an event Colonel Dyess' statement describes as "The salvation of the American prisoners of war."

Food was slightly better at Davao. In addition to rice, the prisoners received once a day a small portion of mango beans, and some camotes, green papayas, casavas, or cooking bananas. However, most of the prisoners already were suffering from beri beri and the food was not sufficient to prevent the disease from progressing. Although oranges and lemons were abundant in the vicinity, the Japanese would not allow prisoners to have them. The brutality of Japanese officers continued. One lieutenant habitually beat prisoners. According to the statement of Colonel Mellnik, this lieutenant had done most of his fighting at the rear when in action, and had been assigned to prison duty as a punishment. He avenged himself on the prisoners.

The camp commandant made a speech to the prisoners shortly after their arrival.

“You have been used to a soft, easy life since your capture,” he said, “All that will be different here. You will learn about hard labor. Every prisoner will continue to work until he is actually hospitalized. Punishment for malingering will be severe.”

These orders were rigidly enforced. When Colonel Dyess, Colonel Mellnik, and Commander McCoy escaped from Davao in April, 1943, only 1,100 of the 2,000 prisoners there were able to work.

The arrival of two Red Cross boxes for each prisoner early in 1943 caused joy beyond description among the prisoners, according to the statements of the three officers. The boxes contained chocolate bars, cheese, tinned meats and sardines, cigarettes, a portion each of tea, cocoa, salt, pepper, and sugar. Most important of all, quinine and sulfa drugs were included.

The Red Cross supplies had been received aboard a diplomatic ship in Japan in June, 1942. The prisoners never learned why it took then seven months to reach Davao.

A few days before Commander McCoy, Colonel Mellnik, Colonel Dyess escaped from Davao on April 4, 1943, one of the American prisoners, a hospital orderly, was wantonly murdered by a Japanese sentry.

The orderly was digging camotes, Colonel Mellnik reported, outside the hospital stockade and directly beneath a watch tower. It was an extremely hot day. He called to a fellow prisoner to toss him a canteen from the stockade. As the orderly was about to drink from the canteen, the Japanese sentry in the tower shouted at him angrily.

To show that the canteen contained only water, the orderly took it from his mouth and poured a little on the ground. Apparently because he did this, the sentry trained his rifle on him and fired. The bullet entered at the neck and shoulder and came out at the hip.

The orderly cried out: “Don’t shoot me again.”

The sentry fired two more bullets into the man’s body. He then emptied his clip at the man inside the hospital stockade, who ran for his life and was not hit.

END

DISTRIBUTION: Aa, Af, B, Da, Dm, N.

Source: **Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Joint Army-Navy Release]. Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University.

Letter of Major General Sutherland to President Quezon on the relief of Whitney and Hayden, February 15, 1944

**Letter
of
R. K. Sutherland
Major General of the U.S. Army
To President Quezon on the relief of Whitney and Hayden**

[Written on February 15, 1944]

PERSONAL

15 February 1944

Dear Mr. President:

Following my last conversation with you in Washington I took up with General MacArthur the question of the relief of Whitney and Hayden. Due to certain local considerations and to the fact that they are not in a position to do any harm, the General did not feel that he could relieve them at that time. I shall reopen the question immediately upon my return by giving to the General your letter of February 11th. You may be sure that in this case as always the General will give the greatest weight to your opinion. In order to allay your uneasiness to the extent possible, I can assure that neither of these men is in a position to affect in the slightest degree any policies regarding the Philippines. Both of them are engaged in detailed work-important matters of execution but without significance in policy. Even if these men are not eliminated immediately it is our intention to relieve them from their present positions prior to our return to the Philippines. Let me repeat that they are not now nor ever will be in a position to influence policy. You can rest assured that General MacArthur has not in any way modified the convictions that he has so long expressed and which have so long guided his actions. He is a true friend of yours and of the Filipino people. He will not be influenced an iota by the opinions of imperialists like Whitney.

I have talked on the telephone with Mike Elizalde and will arrange a conference with him to discuss fully any matters that you may want me to present to the General.

I had hoped that I would have an opportunity to talk to you but it does not now appear possible to do so. If I should be delayed here longer than I now expect, the opportunity may present itself, in which case I shall get in touch with you to inquire whether it would be convenient.

Mrs. Quezon has told me that you are benefiting markedly from the complete rest you are getting in Florida. We are all delighted to hear it.

Most sincerely,

R. K. SUTHERLAND,
Major General, U.S. Army

President Quezon
Miami Beach, Florida

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OE
20 AUG. 75

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Sutherland, R. K. (1944). [Letter of Major General Sutherland to President Manuel L. Quezon on Whitney and Hayden relief]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Transmittal Message of General MacArthur on the employment of Municipal Guards, February 18, 1944

18 February 1944.

AGWAR

Inginiero reports following PAREN for President Quezon from General MacArthur referring three eight three four fifth PAREN CLN necessary to employ one five NOUGHT guards every Municipal District for security and help soldiers of this Command PD Soldiers Bohol Area Command receive monthly loans according to rank CMA all pesos Philippine currency CLN major one five NOUGHT captain one two NOUGHT first lieutenant one NOUGHT NOUGHT second lieutenant eighty third lieutenant sixty master sergeant thirty four technical sergeant thirty staff sergeant twenty seven sergeant twenty five corporal twenty two private first class eighteen private Sixteen Pesos

MACARTHUR

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

MacArthur, D. (1944). [General MacArthur's transmittal message on employment of Municipal Guards]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Memorandum of President Quezon to Provincial Governors on giving the power to control prices of food and other commodities, February 20, 1944

20 FEBRUARY 1944

TO: GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

MSG NR 4367 NINETEENTH

For Governors Montelibano Confesor Marapao and the other Provincial Govenors who are functioning under the authority of the Commonwealth

Under the Emergency Powers Act I give you the power to control prices of food and other commodities and authorize you to direct civilians to plant food crops. I also authorize you to make loans to insular and provincial officials employees and teachers with permanent appointments but now jobless the loans to be charged against their insurance. (Reference your C-1323)

BISSELL (WDGBI)

TOO 200002Z (201102L)

TOR SC MSG CNE 200310Z (201410L)

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Memorandum of President Manuel L. Quezon on giving the power to control prices on food and other commodities]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Memorandum of President Quezon to General MacArthur on the conferment of decoration to Mata, March 7, 1944

TO: GHQ SWPA

FROM: WASHINGTON

4969 7TH MARCH 1944

(TO GENERAL MACARTHUR FROM PRESIDENT QUEZON)

Opinion of Cruz that I should confer same decoration on Mata as was awarded Abcede. Cruz believes Abcede will appreciate. I am therefore conferring on Mata same decoration I gave the others. Please inform.

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Memorandum of President Manuel L. Quezon on the conferment of Decorations to Mata]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Speech of President Laurel on the occasion of the oath taking of Messrs. Gaudencio Garcia and Pastor M. Endencia as Judges, and Gregorio Narvasa and Arturo M. Tolentino as Special Prosecutors under Ordinance No. 7, March 9, 1944 ‘In These Crucial Days’

Speech on the occasion of the oath taking of Messrs. Gaudencio Garcia and Pastor M. Endencia as Judges, and Gregorio Narvasa and Arturo M. Tolentino as Special Prosecutors under Ordinance No. 7, March 9, 1944.

Gentlemen:

I have appointed you to these positions of great importance upon the recommendation of the Minister of State for Justice because we have great confidence not only in your experience and your ability but also in your honesty and in your willingness and determination to serve our people in these crucial days.

The administration of justice is especially important in connection with the restoration of peace and order. In order that the independence of the Philippines may be real it is necessary that justice be done and our laws enforced. The primordial problem of the country is its survival. The policy that I have announced is that no Filipino who is rich should endeavor to grow richer at the expense of the masses of our people and that Filipino who is poor should not be reduced to further poverty. This is a service, which you and the Minister of State for Justice of the Republic and I must carry into effect without fear, with the single purpose in mind of helping our people love the Philippines and making her independence real, if it is unreal.

In connection with the special reorganization, upon the recommendation of the Minister of State for Justice, who is one of the few men who is helping us in these crucial days, I am also authorized to recognize the Bureau of Information into a Ministry of Information. That will depend upon his recommendation. If necessary it will be composed of 300 or 500 men who will go after those people who are aggravating the suffering of the masses. They will cooperate with you in prosecuting these people and see that in the performance of their duties the judges will deal with these people in accordance with the law and exigencies of the situation.

I think I voice the wish of the Minister of State for Justice in extending our heartfelt congratulations to you in the hope that you will not fail us in this great hour of our country's history.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Memorandum of President Quezon to General MacArthur on the request of submarine Nautilus, March 17, 1944

TO: GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM: PRESIDENT QUEZON

5331 17TH MARCH 1944

That the Nautilus be placed at your disposal I requested of President Roosevelt on 23 February. He replied the submarine Nautilus is being ordered to report to General MacArthur for the employment suggested.

TOO: 171810Z

Regraded Unclassified
Order Sec Army TAG Per 90084

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Memorandum of President Manuel L. Quezon on the request of submarine Nautilus]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Message of President Laurel to the Institute of Pensionados to Japan at its opening exercises, March 30, 1944

‘A Filipino, First and Last’

Message to the Institute of Pensionados to Japan at its opening exercises, Manila, March 30, 1944 read by Honorable Arsenio N. Luz, Chairman, Board of Information.

I wish to congratulate you upon your selection as Philippine pensionados to Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Yours is an opportunity not given to every Filipino young man today, and I trust that you will exert your best efforts to be worthy not only of the privilege but of your country on whose behalf you are going to study in Japan to become the better servants of your people.

As you start your preliminary training I hope you will take every possible advantage of the facilities that you will have here in order to reinforce your equipment as Philippine pensionados abroad. We live in an age that is very much accelerated in the tempo of its progress and for this reason we have neither time nor energy to waste. Our rating as potential leaders of our country in its greatest period of reconstruction will depend on how efficiently and effectively we make use of our opportunities in our preparation for service.

In your period of preliminary preparation and even in your period of study abroad, I hope you will completely impress on your minds that you have one supreme loyalty, whether in the hour of danger or trouble or in the hour of greatest success, and that is, your motherland. I would have you remember at all times that you are the receivers of a priceless heritage, the rich tradition of heroism and service to the motherland, and that it is your primary duty to be worthy of your heritage as you prepare yourselves for the continuation of the great work started by our fathers.

In this connection, I would have you review our national history as far back as you can and trace faithfully the line and development of this heroic tradition in order to deepen your understanding and appreciation and provide yourselves a lasting inspiration to guide and enrich all your future endeavors.

Here, as well as abroad, I would have you keep ever fresh the sense of mental adventure, guarding ever against preconceptions, ready to welcome truths when they have proved their title despite the havoc that they may work with old and cherished beliefs.

Now and ever afterwards, I would have you enforce in your everyday activities the most intelligent discipline that knows how to subordinate petty and personal interests to the larger causes that are vital to the community and nation to which you belong.

I would likewise have you bear in mind at all times the philosophy of the new order is committed to the establishment and perpetuation of the rule of moral justice in which every opportunity will be given to all to fulfill their highest creative instinct in service not for their personal advantage but for the welfare and well-being of the entire community. All your preparations will mean nothing to yourselves as individuals and to your people as a nation unless you are completely and absolutely animated by this philosophy of service. Nothing short of the supreme sacrifice may be expected of you to live up to this ideal, and I dare say that you will find your greatest joy and gratification in succeeding to come up to the measure of this ideal.

You will, therefore, carry with you here, as well as abroad, the principle that you are a Filipino first and last and that as a Filipino you will be ready to serve to the extent of sacrificing yourselves in order to insure the happiness of your community of free nations not only in East Asia but in the entire world.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Laurel before the Convention of Provincial Governors, Constabulary Inspectors, Municipal Mayors and Kalibapi leaders of the Visayan provinces, April 13, 1944

‘Let Us All Be One’

Message of His Excellency, read by Commissioner for the Visayas, Paulino Gullas before the Convention of Provincial Governors, Constabulary Inspectors, Municipal Mayors and Kalibapi leaders of the Visayan provinces held in the City of Cebu, April 13, 1944.

Today the Republic is faced with the recurrent problem of peace and order and the problem of food. Foodstuffs we must produce if we are to save our people from possible starvation, if we want our Republic to survive its severest test of fitness. Every piece of land must be cultivated. We have enough land to make us self-sufficient. Our salvation lies in our ability to produce. Determined as the Filipino people are to survive as a nation, I have no doubt that our countrymen will not fail their fatherland in the supreme hour of need.

As Head of the Republic, I appeal to every Filipino worthy of his race to exert his utmost to make his soil productive, to render himself useful to the community. Let us all stick together as one people happen what may. That is the true Filipino spirit—the spirit that animates us all today. It is the spirit that wills to succeed whatever be the obstacle—the spirit that rises superior to every adversity.

Another important problem is unification. A house divided against itself cannot long stand. After having fought so long for independence, freely shedding the blood of heroes and martyrs, the Filipino people should stand united now that we are independent. Both duty and loyalty demand that we work for the uplift of our people and devote everything to the up building of a strong, great, progressive and enduring Republic. Before we can be true to others we must be true to ourselves. I ask each and all members of the convention and those under them to help their Government in uniting our people, in restoring peace and order, and in producing all foodstuffs our country needs. Let us all be one in our national aspiration and endeavor whatever political differences we may have had or now have.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

‘May Two-fold Purpose’	They	Fulfill	their
-----------------------------------	-------------	----------------	--------------

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this mission is two-fold: First, to express to His August Majesty the Emperor of Japan as well as to the Government of His August Majesty and to the great people of Japan, the undying gratitude of 18 million Filipinos for everything that Japan has done for the Philippines—particularly for the grant of the coveted boon of political freedom, which had been the supreme aspiration of the Filipinos for centuries. Second, to enable the Filipinos, through this mission, to get in closer contact with the Japanese Government and people, through their leaders. By getting together and developing mutual understanding, the people of Greater East Asia can make of the Hemispheric Bloc an enduring instrument of world peace and progress.

And so, in the presence of the great leaders of the Japanese Imperial Forces—the Army and the Navy—I bid the members of the Philippine Gratitude Mission God speed. May they perform the functions assigned to them with honor. May they fulfill their two-fold purpose.

And now, gentlemen, may I ask you to rise and drink to the everlasting friendship between the people of Japan and the people of the Philippines; and for the success, pleasant voyage, and early return of the members of the Philippine Gratitude Mission.

I thank you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Message of President Laurel to the Labor Institute of the Kalibapi at the opening of its sixth term, April 19, 1944

‘No Substitute for Work’

Message of His Excellency, read by Honorable Arsenio N. Luz, Chairman of the Board of Information, to the Labor Institute of the Kalibapi at the opening of its sixth term, Manila, April 19, 1944.

I appreciate this opportunity to greet the Labor Institute upon the opening of its sixth term. The enthusiasm with which the work of the Labor Institute was carried on in the last five terms was a positive indication of the good service that the Kalibapi, through the Institute, is rendering for the rejuvenation of the people of Manila.

I am sure that the Labor Institute will pursue with even greater interest the great service that has so far been effectively and efficiently rendered to such groups of working men and women as have come under its beneficent instruction and guidance.

For the delegates just registered to go through a period of reorientation during this sixth term, this should be an excellent opportunity to understand and appreciate those fundamental principles necessary to enable them to find their own true place under the New Order. The New Order is committed to the principle that the welfare of the community is superior to the welfare of the individual and, for this reason, the individual should find his greatest happiness in working for the welfare of all. The understanding of this principle is basic to our survival as a people. We can ill afford to neglect it if we believe in ourselves as Filipinos, and if we believe that we have a glorious destiny ahead of us.

As workers, you might think it superfluous to be reminded that we need to work harder than ever if we are to go through these difficult times and if we are to lay the foundations of a republic designed to endure. At all times and in all places and under any circumstances, there is no substitute for work in order to promote the health, happiness and security of the community of which we are an intimate part. But we must remember that there is a way of work that is exceedingly wasteful of energy, time and resources. This is especially true when we do not have the necessary skill and discipline and when the essential objectives are not clearly established in our minds.

Under the Kalibapi, you will have an excellent opportunity to learn something of these basic objectives and something of the urgent necessity of consecrating ourselves anew to those ideals that testify to the glory of our national tradition, of our great heritage which previous generations of heroes and martyrs have left to us in order that we may find life richer and more satisfying. I trust that this period of training which you will undergo will perfect the basis of this new consecration so that you may go back to your respective responsibilities and positions deeply renewed and strengthened and with a much deeper faith in your individual selves and in your own people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Memorandum of President Quezon on sending General Valdes to MacArthur, May 10, 1944

10 MAY 1944.

TO: GHQ SWPA (MACARTHUR)

FROM: WASHINGTON (BISSELL WDGBI)

NR: W 33990 9TH

Can you use and would it be agreeable to you to have me send General Valdes to you at such time as I determine he can be spared.

Quezon

Regraded
Order Sec Army by TAG Per 90084

Unclassified

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). [Memorandum of President Manuel L. Quezon on sending General Valdes to General MacArthur]. Quezon Family Collections. The MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, Norfolk, VA.

Letter of Colonel Manuel Nieto to President Quezon on Recommendations and Plans, May 21, 1944

**Letter
of
Colonel Manuel Nieto
To His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon
President of the Philippines
On Recommendations and Plans**

[Released on May 21, 1944]

His
Manuel
President of the Philippines

L.

Excellency
Quezon

The following plan is submitted to the consideration of Your Excellency in the hope that in its exposition we have been able to crystallize your views and wishes on the subject and that it will deserve the corresponding executive directives:

- (a) Division of Civil Affairs of the Philippine Army in the Department of National Defense;
- (b) Committee on Relief Purchases;
- (c) Currency Committee

DISCUSSION:

Charged with the responsibility of government and experienced in its exercise, Your Excellency has visualized the difficult situations in the matter of administration that will arise when the campaign for the liberation of the Philippines should commence. We know that this problem is uppermost in your thoughts and that fundamental policies on the subject will be concerted by Your Excellency with the Government of the United States. We also know that it is the wish of Your Excellency that as soon as the first beachhead should be established on Philippine soil your Government be adequately prepared to exercise as much of the functions of government, which will be increased progressively, competitive with and in the wake of successful military operations.

We share your feelings, Mr. President, that our Government to the full extent of its resources, must prepare now to fulfill its responsibility of providing our people upon the first landing with the means of elementary governmental organization and much needed and long awaited relief up to the time normalcy should have been attained. In this connection, we understand the immediate requirements on our Government to be both to establish and secure order in the liberated communities, and to provide the urgent necessities for food, medicine and clothing.

The study of the program of Great Britain and the Netherlands in the Pacific is pertinent. Allied policy in the Pacific provide that a civil government representing that of the recognized Allied pre-war power, rather than on interim form of Allied government, is to be established immediately upon liberation of territory from the enemy. In preparation for this responsibility, the Commission for the Netherlands Indies, under the direct supervision of the Minister for Overseas Territories, opened a civil service school in Melbourne to train the men who would follow the troops of liberation and establish government. The Netherland Government has a working arrangement to this effect with General MacArthur and we understand that the same arrangement is now in the process of negotiation with Admiral Lord Mountbatten.

Your Excellency is aware of the agreements signed on May 16th last between Britain and the United States, on the one hand, and the exiled Governments of Norway, the Netherland and Belgium, on the other governing control of civil affairs in those countries during the period of liberation. These agreements are identical to the signed on the same date by Norway and Soviet Union. "These agreements", the State Department said, "are intended to essentially temporary and practical in character. They are designed to facilitate the task of the Supreme Allied Commander and the further the common purpose of the Governments concerned, namely the speedy expulsion of the Germans from

Allied territory and final victory of the Allies over Germany.” According to these agreements, it will be the undertaking of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, allied Supreme Commander, to turn power to each Government in turn, “as the military situation permits”.

When military operations should be conducted in the Philippines, military government will be inevitable for as long a time as the Military Commander in that theater of operations would deem necessary to the success of his operational task. Our information as that General MacArthur plans to allow complete Filipino civil government as soon as the circumstances of his military operations should permit it. On the subject of military government, our attention have been called to War Department Circular No. 136, dated April 8, 1944. This circular details the program for “preparing officers for civil affairs duties in the Far East”. It calls for the training of 2,750 Army officers during a period of eleven months (May 1, 1944 to March, 1945). Since all territory recaptured is returned to its former sovereignty and all the islands invaded in the Pacific by the Navy are being governed by the Civil Affairs Department of the United States Navy, it can be presumed that a part of the Army officers receiving instruction in Far Eastern Civil Affairs are intended for service in the Philippines. We know of some Army Officers who have been given this assignments purely on the strength of their knowledge and interest in the Philippines.

If circumstances should force the exercise of military government, through a brief period, it would be best that Filipino officers intervene in the administration of their own country to the fullest extent possible. But even if civilian government were possible immediately, it would be necessarily of a temporary character and the need of the proper liaison of Filipino officers between the American military and Filipino civilian authorities, in a country where military operations would provoke countless difficulties in the way of ascertaining the dividing line of authority, would be practically necessary.

After the epic defense of their right to free government by the Filipino people, as has so eloquently been repeatedly acknowledge in behalf of the American nation by President Roosevelt, it would be a grave reflection on our Government if the United States Army undertook entirely the administration of the Philippines territory and the relief of our people during the military campaign because of the failure on our part to provide necessary personnel to set up the required organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1 – Civil Affairs:

The creation in the Department of National Defense of the Division of Civil Affairs of the Philippine Army is to respectfully recommended.

The organization, functioning under direct orders of the President of the Philippines, would be attached to the General Headquarters of the Southwest Pacific in Australia. Its objectives would be the following:

(A) To represent the President of the Philippines in that Command and to carry out his orders in respect to whatever plans he may have agreed upon for the government of Philippines territory during military operations and before normal civil government can be established.

(B) To effect the necessary liaison between the Presidents of the Philippines, the Commander-in-Chief of the Southwest Pacific Area and the people of the Philippines during military operations and before normal civil government can be established in the Philippines.

(C) To plan for the relief of the people of the Philippines immediately upon the landing of the military forces of the United States and to arrange for its transportation and distribution of relief supplies in the Philippine territory with the United States Army and such other agencies as may be dedicated to the relief of the inhabitants of the Philippines.

These objectives would include the duties, among others, of affecting the directives of the President of the Philippines with respect to his relations with the guerillas; with the loyal officials of the Commonwealth Government and with the people in general, achieving the necessary liaison between the President and the United States Army in all matters dealing with the Philippines and between the military and Filipino civilian officers.

2. Relief:

The creation of a Committee on Relief Purchases is respectfully recommended.

This committee could be charged with the following functions:

(A) To coordinate the supply plans and requirements of the Division of Civil Affairs of the Philippine Army and to cooperate with other agencies, official and private, dedicated to the task of providing for the relief of the people of the Philippines.

(B) On the basis of a coordinated national progress to urgently purchase or commit to purchase in behalf of the Philippine Government, the supplies of food, medicine, clothing and other necessities for the relief of the inhabitants of the Philippines; to make pertinent arrangements with the War Department for their transportation, to the effect that they will be available for a planned distribution immediately upon the landing in the Philippines of the military forces of the United States.

(Addends No. of this memorandum deals with the urgent food requirements of the Philippines, and Addends No. 2 with the clothing requirements).

3. Currency:

It is respectfully recommended that a Currency Committee be created, with the subject of implanting the program of the President in the matter of the control of the currency of the Philippines.

As Your Excellency is well aware, the proper control of the currency is vital to the stabilization of the post-war economy of the Philippines, and the monetary problems of reoccupation will be very difficult.

The Currency Committee could proceed and confer immediately with representatives of the Department of Interior, of State, of War, and of the Treasury, and arrange to secure the printing of Philippine Treasury Certificates and the immediate minting of subsidiary coins, in accordance with studies of the monetary problems already made at your directions which we believe have met with your approval. This Committee could work in conjunction with the Division of Civil Affairs of the Philippine Army, as to the best manner of implementing its recommended program and your coordinating directives.

(Addends No. 3 to this memorandum, deals with the subject of Currency).

ORGANIZATION

It would seem that this Division, being a part of the Philippine Army, would in propriety be headed or placed under the immediate administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of National Defense, The Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army.

Should this plan merit the approval of Your Excellency, we anticipate your desire that this organization and the Committee proceed immediately in full accordance with your pertinent directives embodied in your executive orders to negotiate for the purchase of the necessary food stuffs, medicine and clothing, as well as the printing and minting of the necessary amounts of money, so as to have the shipments decided upon available as soon as the campaign for the liberation of the Philippines should be initiated.

If it is possible, immediately upon the invasion of the Philippines, to provide its inhabitants with their immediate and urgent necessities of life, and the problems of administration attended, Your Excellency's wishes and those of your Government will have been accomplished.

Very respectfully submitted

COL. MANUEL NIETO

Asheville,
May 21, 1944.

N.

C.

Source: **Quezon Family Collections**

Quezon, M. L. (1944). Philippine currency committee vacancy filling. *Quezon Family Collections*.

Letter of Vice-President Osmeña submitting Post War Planning Board recommendations to President Quezon, June 10, 1944

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

1617 Massachussetts Avenue

Washington, D.C.

June 10, 1944

Querido Presidente:

Nuestro Manolo tuvo la atencion de comunicarme tus instrucciones scerca del plan que tenías entre manos sobre la administracion de los asuntos civiles en las zonas de nuestro territorio reconquistadas del enemigo y la provision de socorros en alimentos, medicinas y ropas para nuestro pueblo diciendome que era tu deseo lo considerasemos en el Gabinete juntamente con las recommendaciones del Post War Planning Board que se te enviaron a Miami para tu aprobacion. Tengo la satisfaccion de comunicarte que ambos planes han sido cuidadosamente considerados por el Gabinete, que han sido fusionados en uno solo, y el plan asi fusionado ha sido, este dia, unánimemente aprobado. El Co. Nieto ha sido rogado por el Gabinete para presentarte el acuerdo adoptado y recabar tu aprobacion final.

Considero el paso que te propones dar de una importancia vital para nuestro pueblo. Con el continuo avance de las tropas libertadoras en el Pacifico, no puede ser mas oportuno. Capacitara a nuestro gobierno, bajo tu suprema direccion, para cumplir con uno de sus deberes mas fundamentales. Mi permitiras, por tanto, que te envíe por anticipado mis mas calurosos felicitaciones por este señalado logro, en cuya realizacion, en lo que toca al Gabinete, mucho ha tenido que ver la habilidad, la decision y el sentido de responsabilidad de nuestro Manolo. Como siempre, él ha sabido interpretar tus pensamientos y ha ejecutado fielmente tus planes. Le dije, cuando me comunicó tus ideas, que cooperaria estrechamente con el, y así se ha hecho.

Esperando que tu mejoria continua sin interrupcion y con mis respetos para ti y afectos para tu familia, sabes dispones como siempre a

Tu afmo.

(sgd.) S. Osmeña

Su Excelencia,

Manuel L. Quezon,

Presidente de Filipinas,

Camp McMartin,

Lower Saranac Lake,

Saranac, N.Y.

Telegram of Vice-President Osmeña to President Quezon, on Consolidation of Postwar Plans, June 10, 1944

TELEGRAM

June 10, 1944

President Manuel L. Quezon

Camp McMartin

Lower Saranac Lake

Saranac, New York

I BEG TO REPORT TO YOU THAT PLAN REGARDING ADMINISTRATION CIVIL AFFAIRS IN LIBERATED PHILIPPINE AREAS AND PROVISION FOR RELIEF TO OUR PEOPLE PRESENTED TO CABINET BY COLONEL NIETO IN PURSUANCE OF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO YOU BY POSTWAR PLANNING BOARD COMMA HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY STUDIED AND BOTH PLANS HAVING BEEN CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED CABINET. PLAN AS AGREED UPON WILL BE PRESENTED TO YOU BY COLONEL NIETO FOR FINAL APPROVAL. BEST REGARDS.

S. OSMENA

Statement: President Roosevelt upon signing S. J. Resolutions Nos. 93 and 94, June 29, 1944

Statement of President Franklin D. Roosevelt:
Upon signing S. J. Resolutions Nos. 93 and 94

[Released on June 29, 1944]

I have signed today two Joint Resolutions of Congress respecting the Philippines. The first of these resolutions lays down a policy for the granting of independence and for the acquisition of bases adequate to provide for the mutual protection of the United States and the Philippine Islands.

In that resolution it is declared to be the policy of the Congress "that the United States shall drive the treacherous, invading Japanese from the Philippine Islands, restore as quickly as possible the orderly, free democratic processes of government to the Filipino people and thereupon establish the complete independence of the Philippine Islands as a separate self-governing nation." The measure makes it possible to proclaim independence as soon as practicable after constitutional processes and normal functions of government have been restored in the Philippines.

It is contemplated that as soon as conditions warrant, civil government will be set up under constitutional officers. It will be their duty forthwith to take emergency measures to alleviate the physical and economic hardships of the Philippine people, and to prepare the Commonwealth to receive and exercise the independence which we have promised them. The latter includes two tasks of great importance: Those who have collaborated with the enemy must be removed from authority and influence over the political and economic life of the country, and the democratic form of government guaranteed in the constitution of the Philippines must be restored for the benefit of the people of the Islands.

On the problem of bases, the present Organic Act permitted acquisition only of naval bases and fueling stations, a situation wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of modern warfare. The measure approved today will permit the acquisition of air and land bases in addition to naval bases and fueling stations. I have been informed that this action is most welcome to Commonwealth authorities, and that they will gladly cooperate in the establishment and maintenance of bases both as a restored Commonwealth and as an independent nation. By this we shall have an outstanding example of cooperation designed to prevent a recurrence of armed aggression and to assure the peaceful use of a great ocean by those in pursuit of peaceful ends.

The second Joint Resolution signed today brings into effect the Joint Economic Commission first organized in the present Organic Act, and enlarges its scope to include consideration of proposals for the economic and financial rehabilitation of the Philippines.

We are ever mindful of the heroic rôle of the Philippines and their people in the present conflict. Theirs is the only substantial area and theirs the only substantial population under the American flag to suffer lengthy invasion by the enemy. History will attest the heroic resistance of the combined armies of the United States and the Philippines in Luzon, Cebu, Iloilo, and other islands of the archipelago. Our character as a nation will be judged for years to come by the human understanding and the physical efficiency with which we help in the immense task of rehabilitating the Philippines. The Resolution creates the Philippine Rehabilitation Commission whose functions shall be to study all aspects of the problem and after due investigation report its recommendations to the President of the United States and the Congress, and to the President and the Congress of the Philippines.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Press Release 91, July 5, 1944

1617
Washington,
HObart 1400

Massachusetts

Ave.,

N.W.
D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

July 5, 1944

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines issued the following statement for broadcast to the Philippines on July 4:

“My fellow countrymen:

Fourth of July this year has a special meaning to us in the Philippines. We have celebrated it in the past as a milestone in the history of the United States. It marks the day of American Independence from an alien rule.

A few days ago, President Roosevelt signed Senate Joint Resolution No. 93 advancing Philippine independence prior to July 4, 1946. This year's July Fourth, therefore takes on a new significance. Freedom is indivisible and America shows the world that its belief in freedom is so strong it does not deny it to others. It gives the American soldier, wherever he may be in this global war, an epitome of what he is fighting for: Freedom not only for himself but for other peoples as well.

General MacArthur continues pressing forward in his steady advance in the Southwest Pacific. His victories in Hollandia and recently in Biak bring him and the army of liberation under his command nearer to Philippine shores. The forces under Admiral Nimitz are also staging a series of spectacular victories. A staggering blow was recently dealt the Japanese fleet off the Philippine sea.

The forces of freedom and democracy are marching onward irresistibly. As we commemorate today's American Independence Day, let us take renewed strength in the confident expectation that soon our own Fourth of July from Japanese oppression will dawn for us. It will not take long now.

MANUEL L. QUEZON.”

Saranac
July 4, 1944

Lake,

N.Y.

PR-91

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Press Release. (1944). Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Press Release 92, July 7, 1944

1617
Washington,
HObart 1400

Massachusetts

Ave.,

N.W.
D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

July 7, 1944

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

President Manuel L. Quezon of the Philippines sent the following message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek on the eighth anniversary of China's resistance against Japan (July 7):

"As China enters its eighth year of unwavering resistance against Japan the world must not forget that it is the Chinese people who seven years ago pioneered in the fight for democracy against totalitarianism. Your courage and determination have made up for what you lacked in armed power and yours is a struggle for human freedom that will go down in history as one of the noblest exemplifications of a nation's unbending will against tyranny and oppression. As the forces of liberation continue advancing everywhere it is my hope, and I am sure that of all lovers of freedom, that your arms may soon achieve that victory which the brave Chinese people so richly deserve."

Saranac Lake, N.Y.

PR-92

Source: Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University

Press Release. (1944). Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Press Release 94, July 21, 1944

1617
Washington,
HObart 1400

Massachusetts

Ave.,

N.W.
D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

July 21, 1944

RELEASE FOR SUNDAY PAPERS, JULY 23:

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. July 23 — The following is a statement issued by President Manuel L. Quezon of the Philippines on the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission which will meet for the first time tomorrow noon, Monday, July 24, in Room 357, Senate Office Building:

“I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the United States Senate for the designation of Senator Millard E. Tydings as Chairman of the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission on the part of the American government, I know that the Filipino people welcome such a happy choice because they see in his selection as the head of the American group an earnest that their interests will be properly safeguarded. Senator Tydings has shown himself to be our true and loyal friend and we are confident that as in the past he will be guided by the sincere desire to help us establish a free and independent government.

“As provided in Public Law 381 — 78th Congress (S. J. Res. 94), the purposes of the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission are as follows:

(b) The Commission shall investigate all matters affecting post-war economy, trade, finance, economic stability, and rehabilitation of the Philippine Islands, including the matter of damages to public and private property and to persons occasioned by enemy attack and occupation.

(c) To formulate recommendations based upon such investigations and for future trade relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic when established and to consider the extension of the present or heretofore agreed upon trade relations or otherwise for a period of years to make adjustments for the period of occupancy by the Japanese in order to reestablish trade relations as provided for in the original Independence Act.

It is needless for me to dwell on what is clearly outlined in the foregoing, nor is it necessary to stress how urgent it is that the Commission should undertake to formulate a program of rehabilitation adequate to meet the needs of a people whose country has been ravaged and destroyed by the invader. I can only say that if the enemy has wrought terrible destruction on the Philippines as he has advanced victoriously, it is not difficult to foresee tint when he is defeated, his fury and savagery will be inconceivable, and his retreat will be marked by such havoc as I fear will be unrelenting and total.

“The Commonwealth Government-in-Exile has been engaged in the study and preparation of plans for the relief and rehabilitation of the Filipino people as soon as the reconquest of the Philippines is started. With our knowledge of our country and our people and with an understanding of their needs after more than two years under Japanese occupation, we made and completed certain studies and researches. On the basis of this, we formulated a program of immediate relief and rehabilitation. We place this program at the disposal of the Commission for whatever use it may deem fit to make of it.

“It is obvious that the task of this Filipino Rehabilitation Commission is vastly more difficult than that contemplated in the original Tydings-McDuffie Independence Act and the 1939 amendment thereto. The original act and the

amending act approved August 7, 1939, provided for the establishment of a conference of representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands 'for the purpose of formulating recommendations as to future trade relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republics,' The Tydings-McDuffie Act and the amending act of 1939 were passed at a time when this present war was not anticipated, and the task contemplated for the conference of representatives provided thereunder was to make adjustments in the trade relations between the Philippines and the United States which became necessary only because of the independence of the Philippines, under the normal conditions of peace.

"The present war has not only caused widespread destruction of property and completely disrupted the internal economic conditions of the Philippines, and all other enemy-occupies countries, but it has also disrupted and dislocated the economy and trade of the world as a whole. In formulating recommendation for future trade relations between the United States and the Philippines, therefore, the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission I hope will take into account not only conditions as they existed before the war, but the vastly more difficult and complicated condition existing in the world today. Therefore, the studies and recommendations of the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission will help determine the entire economic future of the Philippines.

"The Filipino Rehabilitation Commission also has the tasks, not contemplated in the original act and the amending act of 'Considering and recommending measures for the payment for the damage caused to public and private property and to individuals as the result of enemy attack and occupation. It must also consider the need of the Philippine Government for financial assistance, and the extent and manner in which such assistance should be given, the monetary assistance required by Philippine banks, and the rehabilitation of the Philippine merchant marine and aerial and other transportation system,

"With the establishment of this commission, we enter a new era in Philippine-American relations. Philippine independence is a settled question and now we enter the second phase envisaged by President Roosevelt when on December 28, 1941, he solemnly pledged to the Filipino people 'your independence will be established and protected.' The protection of that independence and the establishment of a firm and durable relationship between the Philippines and the United States looking toward the preservation of peace in the Far East will depend to a great extent on the findings and recommendations to be made by the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission.

"When Senator Tydings and Congressman Bell introduced S. J. Res. No. 94, I made a statement to the press in which I called the resolution 'an act of statesmanship of the first magnitude.' I reiterate it now, I am confident that the members of the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission will be guided by the highest sense of responsibility and good will, cognizant of the fact that in their hands lies in a large measure the destiny of a people that has shown unmistakably its loyalty to America and to the principles of freedom and democracy without counting the cost."

—

Note to Editor:

The	American	group	is	composed	of:
Sen.	Millard	E.	Tydings	(D.,Md.)	
Sen.	Bennett	Champ	Clark	(D.,Mo.)	
Sen.	Arthur	K.	Vandenberg	(R.,Mich.)	
Rep.	C.	Jasper	Bell	(D.,Mo.)	
Rep.	Dan	R.	McGehee	(D.,Miss.)	
Rep.	Richard	J.	Welch	(R.,	Calif.)
Wayne	Coy,	Ass't.	to	Publisher,	Washington
Lynn	R.	Edminster,	Vice-Chairman,	U.S.	Tariff
Evett D. Hester,	Department of Interior				Post Comm.

The Filipino group is composed of:

Sergio		Osmeña,		Vice-President		(Chairman)
Joaquin		M.	Elizalde,	Resident		Commissioner
Jaime			Hernandez,	Auditor		General
Col.	Manuel	Nieto,	Secretary	of	Philippine	Cabinet
Col.	Carlos	P.	Romulo,	Secretary	of	Information
Col.	Alejandro		Melchor,		Philippine	Army
Urbano A. Zafra, Commercial Adviser to Resident Commissioner						

Two other remaining members to be appointed by President Quezon.

PR-94

Source: **Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University**

Press Release. (1944). Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Statement: Agreements reached at the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference, July 22, 1944

Statement:

Agreements reached at the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference

[Released on July 22, 1944]

BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE

This Conference at Bretton Woods, representing nearly all the peoples of the world, has considered matters of international money and finance which are important for peace and prosperity. The Conference has agreed on problems needing attention, measures which should be taken, and the forms of international cooperation or organization which are required.

Agreement was reached on these large and complex matters without precedent in the history of international economic relations.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND: Since trade affects the standard of life of every people, all countries have a vital interest in a system of exchange of national currencies and the regulations and conditions which govern its working. Because these monetary transactions are international exchanges, the nations must agree on the basic rules which govern the exchanges if the system is to work smoothly.

When they disagree and when single nations or small groups of nations attempt by special different regulations of foreign exchanges to gain trade advantages, the result is instability, a reduced volume of foreign trade, and damage to national economies.

This course of action is likely to lead to economic warfare and to endanger the world's peace.

The Conference, therefore, agreed on the broad international action necessary to maintain an international monetary system which will promote foreign trade. The nations should consult and agree on international monetary changes which affect each other. They should outlaw practices which are agreed to be harmful to world prosperity and should assist each other to overcome short-term exchange difficulties.

The Conference agreed that the nations here represented should establish for these purposes a permanent international body, an international monetary fund with the powers and resources adequate to perform the tasks assigned to it.

Agreement has been reached concerning these powers and resources and the additional obligations which the member countries should undertake. Draft articles of agreement on these points have been prepared.

It is in the interests of all nations that postwar reconstruction should be rapid. Likewise the development of resources of particular regions are in the general economic interest. Programs of reconstruction development will speed economic progress everywhere and will aid political stability.

The Conference agreed that expanded international investment is essential to provide a portion of the capital needed for reconstruction development.

The Conference further agreed that the nations should cooperate to increase the volume of foreign investment for these purposes made through normal business channels. It is especially important that the nations should cooperate to share the risks of such foreign investment since the benefits are general.

INTERNATIONAL BANK: The Conference agreed that the nations should establish a permanent international body to perform these functions to be called the Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It has been agreed that the

Bank should assist in providing capital through normal channels at reasonable rates of interest and for long periods for projects which will raise the productivity of the borrowing country.

There is agreement that the Bank should guarantee loans made by others and that through their subscriptions and capital all countries should share with the borrowing country in guaranteeing such loans. The Conference has agreed on the powers and resources which the Bank must have, the obligations which the member countries must assume, and has prepared draft articles of agreement accordingly.

The Conference has recommended that in carrying out the policies of the institution here proposed, special consideration should be given to the needs of countries which have suffered from enemy occupation and hostilities.

The proposals formulated at the Conference for the establishment of the fund and bank are now submitted, in accordance with the terms of the invitation, for consideration by the governments and people of the countries represented.

The Conference adopted the above statement after it was submitted by the Coordinating Committee of which Fred M. Vinson, Vice Chairman of the United States delegation and Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, was Chairman. Other members of the Committee were delegates from Brazil, China, France, Mexico, Russia and Britain.

July 25, 1944.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Press Release 95, July 28, 1944

1617
Washington,
HObart 1400

Massachusetts

Ave.,

N.W.
D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

July 28, 1944

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y., July 28—With plans rapidly moving ahead for the early rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Philippines, President Manuel L. Quezon is organizing his staff for this tremendous task. Today he appointed Colonel Alejandro Melchor as Under-Secretary of National Defense. Major-General Basilio J. Valdes, Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, is Secretary.

President Quezon also recalled to active duty Sebastian Ugarte, legal advisor to Resident Commissioner Elizalde, with the rank of Major in the Philippine Army.

Colonel Melchor, former head of the Department of Engineering at the Philippine Military Academy, was sent to the United States in 1940 for graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Following this he spent months at Jost Point and Annapolis as an official observer. A regular officer of the Philippine Army, Col. Melchor has been rendering service to the U. S. Army on the staff of the Engineer Board at Fort Belvoir. His work has been described as “an invaluable contribution to the advancement of science and the defeat of a common foe.” It was at the recommendation of President Quezon that Secretary of War Stimson ordered Colonel Melchor to Fort Belvoir.

Major Ugarte has been appointed Executive Officer in the Department of National Defense. He came to the United States in 1939 to serve as legal advisor to the Resident Commissioner. He enlisted in the Philippine Army shortly after war broke out, and attended the School of Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. On graduation he returned to serve the Philippine Government. Called to active duty as of August 1, Major Ugarte will continue serving the Resident Commissioner in a legal capacity as well as assuming his duties in the Department of National Defense.

PR-95

Source: **Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University**

Press Release. (1944). Arturo Rotor Papers, Pardo de Tavera Special Collections. Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

